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ABSTRACT

This document presents statistical data concerning the attrition and retention of first-time, full-time students in 2-year and baccalaureate degree programs for the class of 1973 of the State University of New York. Statistics cover attrition and retention in baccalaureate programs and in 2-year programs at institutions of the State University of New York. Attrition/retention at institutions of the State University of New York is compared with national attrition/retention data and transfer data for students enrolled in 2-year programs at institutions of the State University of New York. Tables are included for university centers, university colleges, specialized colleges, statutory colleges, health sciences centers, agricultural and technical colleges, and community colleges. (MJM)

ED 098902

**ATTRITION AND RETENTION OF FIRST-TIME,
FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN TWO-YEAR
AND BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
CLASS OF 1973**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Office of
Institutional Research
Report No. 4-74

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INTRODUCTION

During a time when the growth rate of the pool of potential students is declining, the ability of an institution to attract and retain students through graduation is of considerable importance. This study is the initial attempt by the Office of Institutional Research to provide a systematic picture of the flow of students through our institutions. The information presented here should be useful to everyone involved in the operation of the State University System, whether their prime responsibilities be instructional or administrative. We believe that this study will be a significant aid in promoting a better understanding of the flow of students through the institution, as well as providing new information relevant to the development of institutional policies and plans.

The factors of significant consequence in the development of a student's academic career and plans are varied and diverse, consequently there are innumerable questions that may be asked regarding student attrition and retention. Because of the desirability of designing a study that would yield significant information and still be capable of execution in a reasonable period of time, the questions formulated for purposes of this study have been restricted to those which could be answered by an examination of permanent records and transcripts.

The accumulation of the information contained in this study involved a good deal of work on the part of individual campuses. We appreciate the cooperation and effort that went into providing this data. We would also like to particularly thank our professional, statistical and typing staff whose efforts made this report possible.

Tommy Annas
Acting Director

METHODOLOGY

The problem of "measuring" student attrition and retention in an instructional program is complicated by a number of factors -- some technical and some conceptual. Among the latter is the fundamental problem of defining the concept of attrition in an operationally significant manner. Regardless of its original meaning, the term 'attrition' as it is used within the context of higher education involves the concept of failure to achieve some goal or objective. It would, consequently, be improper to include within attrition figures a student who entered an undergraduate college and completed only one year of study if that student had no commitment to a program of full-time study leading to a formal degree, or no commitment to a specific goal which was not achieved.

The basic approach utilized in this study was to identify a group of full-time, first-time students enrolled in a degree program -- called the "total cohort" -- and to arrive at attrition/retention information by tracing the flow of the cohort through the institution. The reason for selecting a cohort of full-time, first-time students enrolled in a degree program was that they, by virtue of their enrollment, expressed a commitment to definable objectives. Specifically, they were committed to (i) full-time study and (ii) attaining a degree. This study is organized so as to provide information regarding the relative success of the cohort in achieving their goals.

The study examines the flow of two cohorts: (i) those students enrolled in bachelor degree programs, and (ii) those students enrolled in two year degree programs. If comparisons are made between the two cohorts a word of caution is advisable. It should be remembered that a student who enrolls in a bachelor's degree program and leaves the institution after two years without a degree will be counted as failing to achieve his objectives, whereas a student enrolled in a two year program who receives a degree will have met his objectives. Yet, both students may have completed essentially the same course work and performed at essentially the same level of competence. Since a four year institution does not give a formal degree for completing two years of study while a two year institution does, comparisons between the two cohorts with respect to ability and achievement should be made with caution.

All of the institutions of the State University of New York which offer bachelor or two year degree programs are represented in this study with the following exceptions. The data for bachelor degree programs does not include the following: Utica/Rome since it has no first-time students; Empire State and Purchase since they did not have an entering baccalaureate class in Fall 1969; all Health Sciences Centers since they either have no first-time students in a bachelor's program or were not in operation at the time of the study; Optometry and Veterinary Colleges since they have no first-time students in a bachelor's program. The data for two year degree programs does not include the following: Alfred Ag. & Tech. College, Community Colleges under the sponsorship of the New York City Board of Higher Education and Westchester Community College since none of these institutions submitted data; Erie Community College South

since it was not in operation at the time of the study. Included in the two year program data is Upstate Medical Center since it does have first-time students in two year programs.

The tables in this study present information in the form of a flow chart, beginning with the cohort and following it through various subdivisions pertinent to determining the relative success of students in achieving their educational objectives. While this manner of presenting information is somewhat unconventional, it does communicate clearly and concisely the flow of the original cohort.

Attrition/retention data in bachelor degree programs are based on a cohort of full-time, first-time students enrolled in the Fall of 1969. This cohort was divided into those who received a degree, thereby achieving their baccalaureate educational objectives, and those who did not receive a degree. The time allotted for completing a degree was divided in order to provide information regarding the number of students who, in terms of the conventional four year program, finished early, "on schedule", or up to approximately six months later. Those who did not receive a degree were further divided into those still enrolled, either part-time or full-time, and those no longer enrolled. The students still enrolled represent individuals who have not abandoned their objectives, but for some reason did not complete them within four years. It would also be incorrect to infer that students who are no longer enrolled have abandoned their educational objectives. They may or may not have abandoned their original goals. All that is known for certain regarding the students who are no longer enrolled is that, for reasons which we do not have, their relationship with the institution has ceased. Again, a cautionary note, the reasons for leaving the institution may be many and various, e.g., financial, academic, abandonment of original objectives, illness, desire to attend another institution, or any variety of personal and non-personal reasons. Consequently, inferences made from the data regarding students no longer enrolled should be made with caution. In the case of students no longer enrolled, additional information is provided regarding the date of their last attendance. In general, this method of organization yields an accurate picture of student flow which is easily scanned. In addition to providing information regarding attrition/retention percentages, it also indicates for each institution the period during which the greatest attrition took place for that entering class.

Attrition/retention data in two year programs are based on a cohort of full-time, first-time students enrolled in any associate degree program, or two year diploma or certificate program in the Fall of 1971. The divisions of this cohort are similar but not identical to the divisions utilized for bachelor's degree students. Consequently, the same cautionary notes apply. The major difference in the case of two year programs is that additional information is provided regarding the number and distribution of students who transferred to another college. This additional information was sought in the case of two year programs since many of them are designed to be university parallel programs leading to transfer to another institution.

In interpreting the data for attrition in two year programs, it should be noted that those students in a two year program whose ultimate objective is to receive a bachelor's degree may, because of limitations on the transferability of credits and other factors, perceive it to be in their best interest not to complete the two year program. Consequently, some students may not receive a formal award in a two year program by prior design. In this instance, therefore, attention should be given to the students who do not receive a two year degree but do transfer to another college.

SUMMARY OF DATA

The detailed information contained in the study is summarized under separate headings for bachelor degree programs and two year programs. The method of summarizing is to formulate questions pertaining to attrition/retention with their corresponding answers. In the summary, percentages are utilized; complete percentage figures and headcount numbers are included in the tables. The summary also includes a comparison of attrition/retention at the State University with national attrition/retention data.

ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS

What percentage of the cohort received a bachelor's degree?
54%

What percentage of the cohort did not receive a bachelor's degree within the time allotted for completing the degree?
45%

What percentage of the cohort did not receive a bachelor's degree but were still enrolled after the time allotted for completing the degree?
8%

What percentage of the cohort received a bachelor's degree or were still enrolled after the time allotted for completing the degree?
62%

What percentage of the cohort did not receive a bachelor's degree and were no longer enrolled?
38%

Of those who did not receive a degree and were no longer enrolled, how long had they attended?

One year or more:	36%
More than one but not more than two years:	29%
More than two but not more than three years:	20%
More than three but not more than four years:	15%

ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS^a

What percentage of the cohort received an associate degree or other two year award?
43%

^a Reference to receiving a degree, unless otherwise qualified, includes those who initially enrolled in a two year degree program but graduated with a degree in a program of less than two years.

ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS (continued)

What percentage of the cohort did not receive any formal award?
55%

What percentage of the cohort transferred to another college?
35%

What percentage of those receiving an associate degree or other two year award transferred to another college?
49%

What percentage of non-graduates transferred to another college?
24%

What percentage of the cohort did not receive a degree and were still enrolled after two years?
10%

What percentage of the cohort received a degree, or transferred, or were still attending after two years?
68%

What percentage of the cohort did not receive a degree and did not transfer and were not attending after two years?
32%

Of those who did not receive a degree and were no longer enrolled, how long did they attend?

One year or less:	72%
More than one but less than two years:	28%

Of those who did not receive a degree and were no longer enrolled and did not transfer, how long did they attend?

One year or less:	52%
More than one but less than two years:	19%

Of those who did not receive a degree and were no longer enrolled and did transfer, how long did they attend?

One year or less:	20%
More than one but less than two years:	9%

ATTRITION/RETENTION IN THE STATE UNIVERSITY COMPARED WITH NATIONAL DATA

The comparison of attrition/retention data from the State University with national figures should be undertaken with caution. For a number of reasons, detailed quantitative comparisons are difficult to construct. For example, there is no standard method of collecting and reporting attrition/retention data, and no single cluster of definitions of 'attrition'. Further, the current interest in obtaining detailed attrition/retention information is a relatively recent phenomenon, and consequently there is no large body of data available to support detailed comparative studies.

The national figures used here are derived from a study by Alexander Astin^a. While the data collection techniques of the two reports are not the same, we believe that they are sufficiently similar to yield meaningful qualitative comparisons. Astin's study followed a sample of first-time freshmen enrolled in Fall 1966. The study sampled students in a variety of institutions, i.e., public, private, four year, two year, sectarian, non-sectarian, etc. The follow-up study obtained information regarding the academic progress of the sample by Fall 1970. In contrast to the State University study, Astin's sample was not restricted to students enrolled in a program and he allowed four years for completion of the associate degree whereas our study followed students in a two year program for two years.

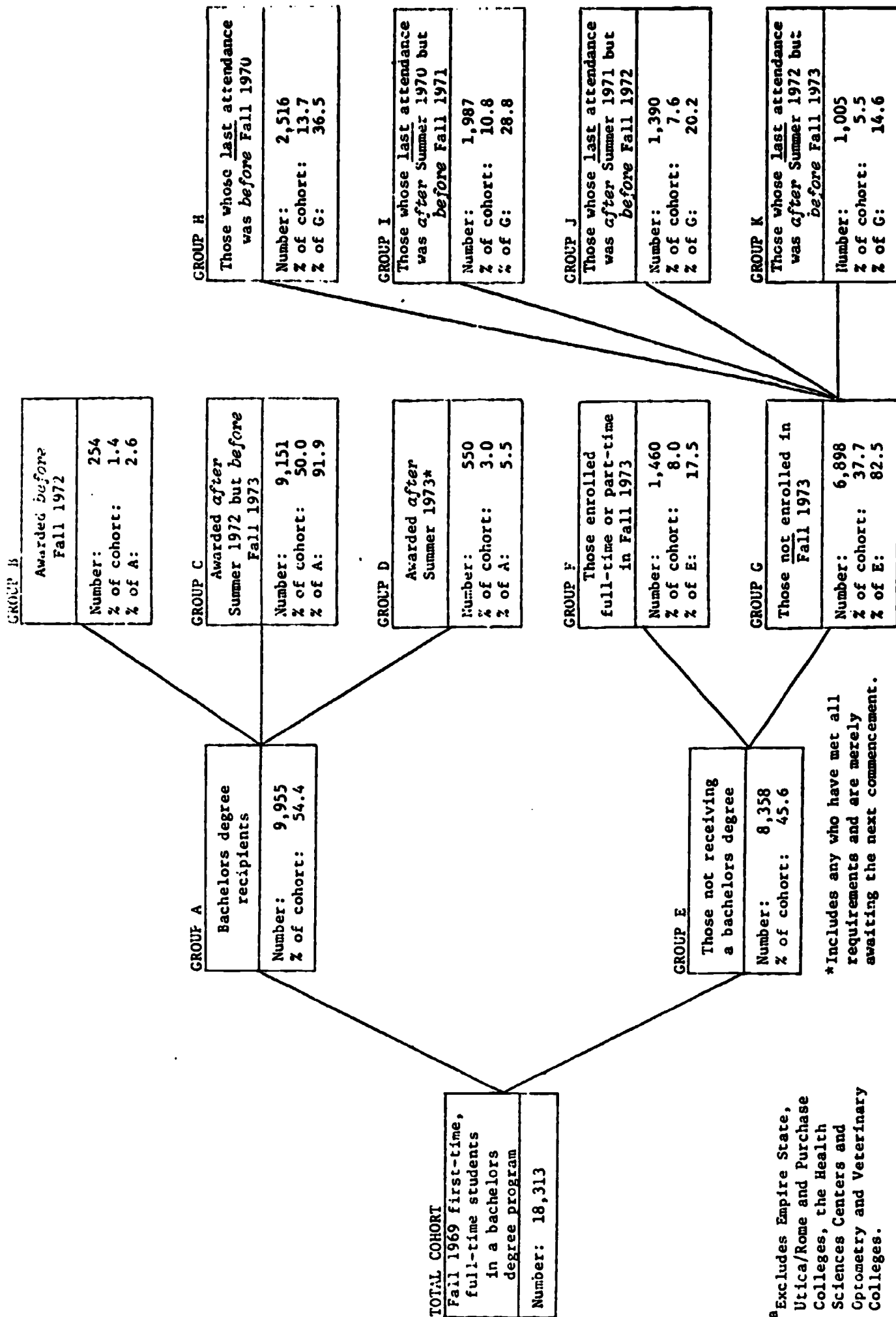
According to Astin, 46.7% of entering freshmen in four year colleges received a bachelor's degree; 38.4% of those entering a two year institution received a degree. At the State University of New York institutions the comparable figures are as follows: 54.4% of those freshmen enrolled in a bachelor's degree program received a degree; 43.3% of those enrolled in a two year program received a degree. Even allowing for differences in methodology, the retention rate at State University appears to be superior to national figures.

^a Astin, Alexander. College Dropouts: A National Profile. American Council on Education, ACE Research Reports, Vol. 7, No. 1, Feb., 1972.

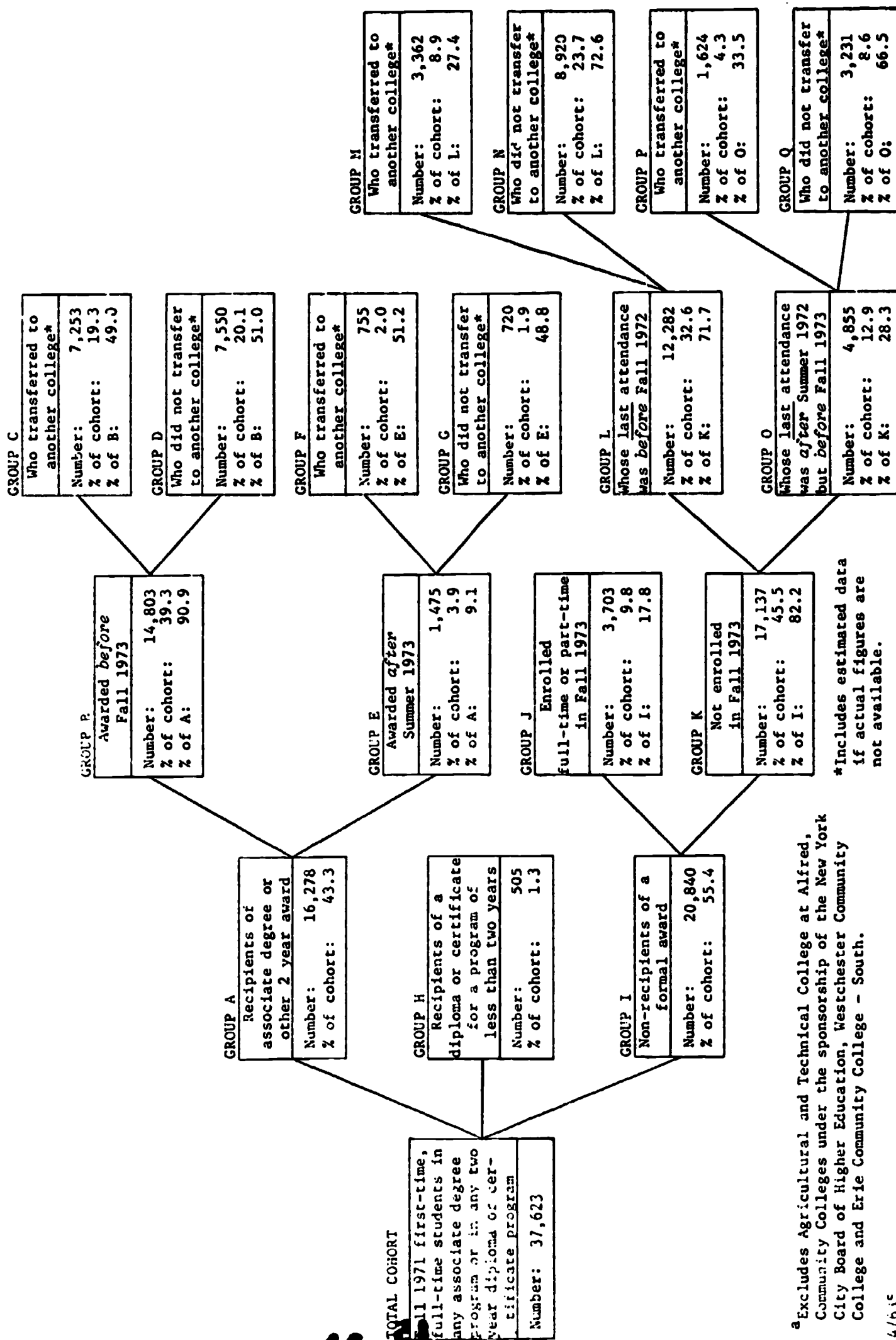
PART ONE
SUMMARY AND COMPARATIVE TABLES

ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK^a

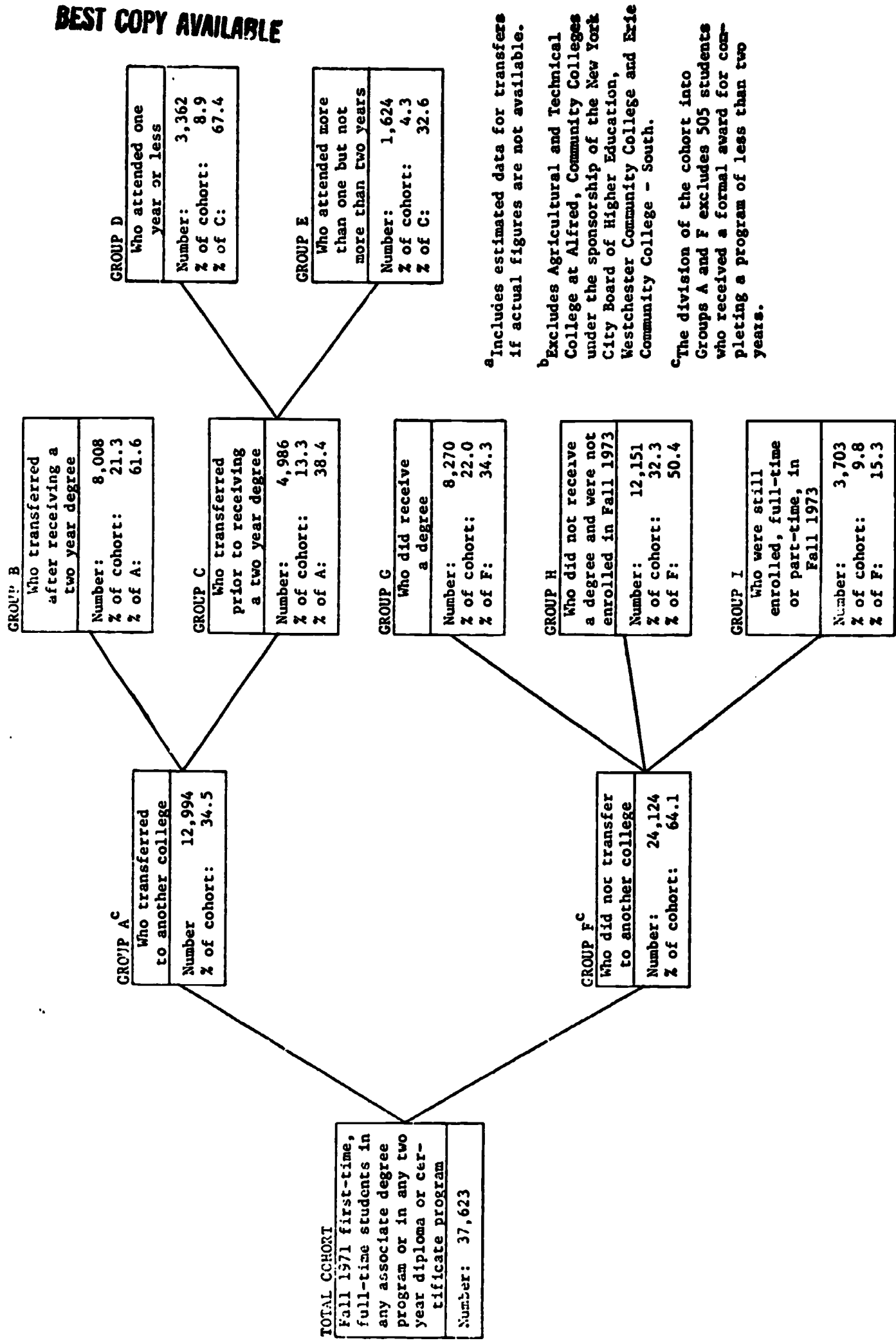
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ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK^a



TRANSFER DATA^a FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS
AT INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK^b



ATTRITION/RETENTION AT INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW YORK COMPARED WITH NATIONAL ATTRITION/RETENTION DATA^a

Percentage of freshmen who:	Bachelor degree programs: SUNY	Bachelor degree programs: National	Two year programs: SUNY	Two year programs: National
Received a degree ^b	54.4	46.7	43.3	38.4
Did not receive a degree but were still enrolled	8.0	11.8	9.8	2.1
Received a degree but were still enrolled	62.3	58.5	53.1 ^c	40.5
Did not receive a degree and were no longer enrolled	37.7	41.5	45.5	59.5

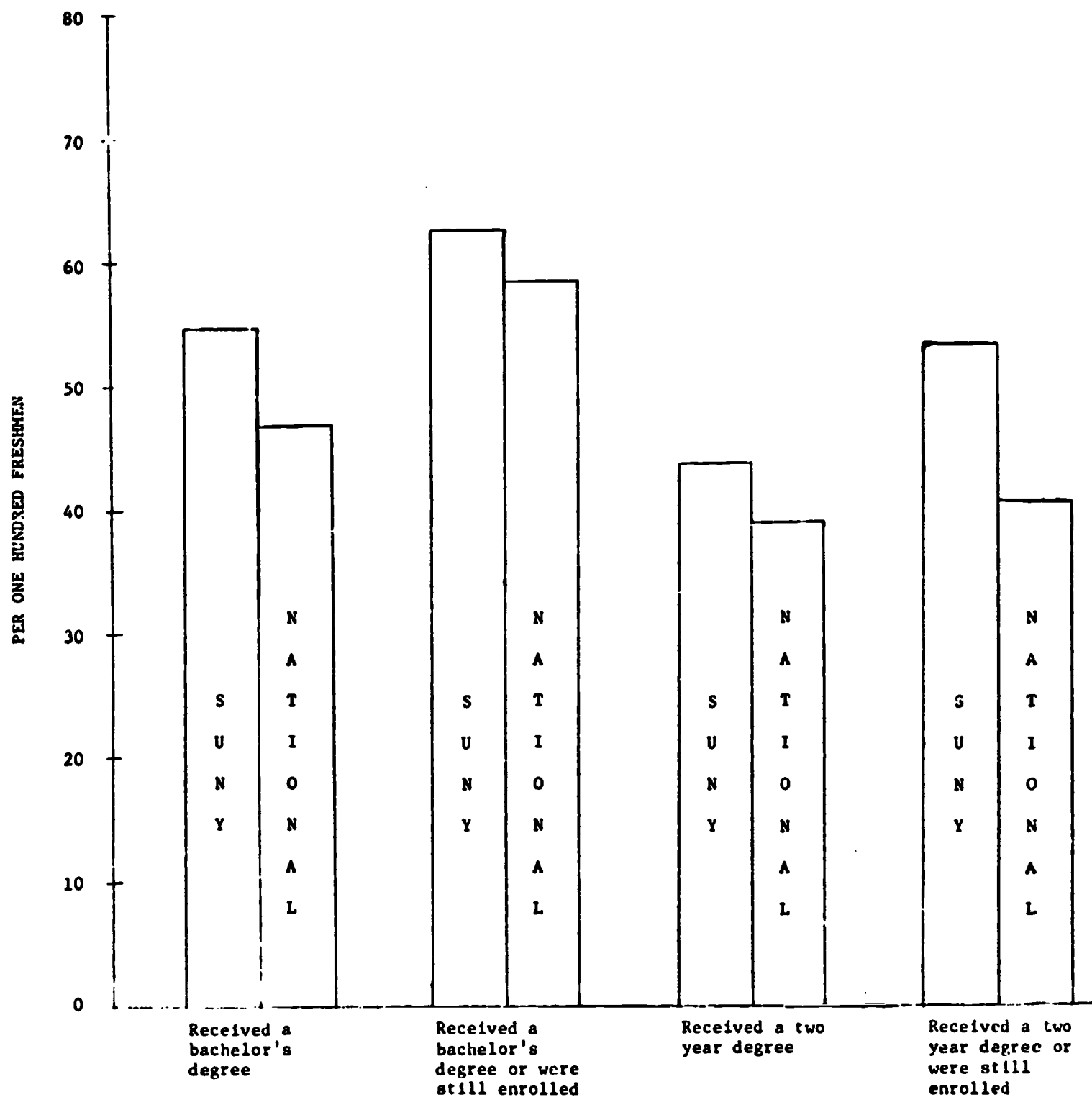
^aNational data are derived from: Alexander Astin, College Dropouts: A National Profile; prepared under the auspices of The American Council on Education, 1972; see summary for further comments.

^bThe term 'degree' refers to an associate degree, or other two year award, in the case of two year programs.

^cThis figure is increased to 54.5% if students who enrolled in a two year program and ultimately received a formal award for completing a program of less than two years are included.

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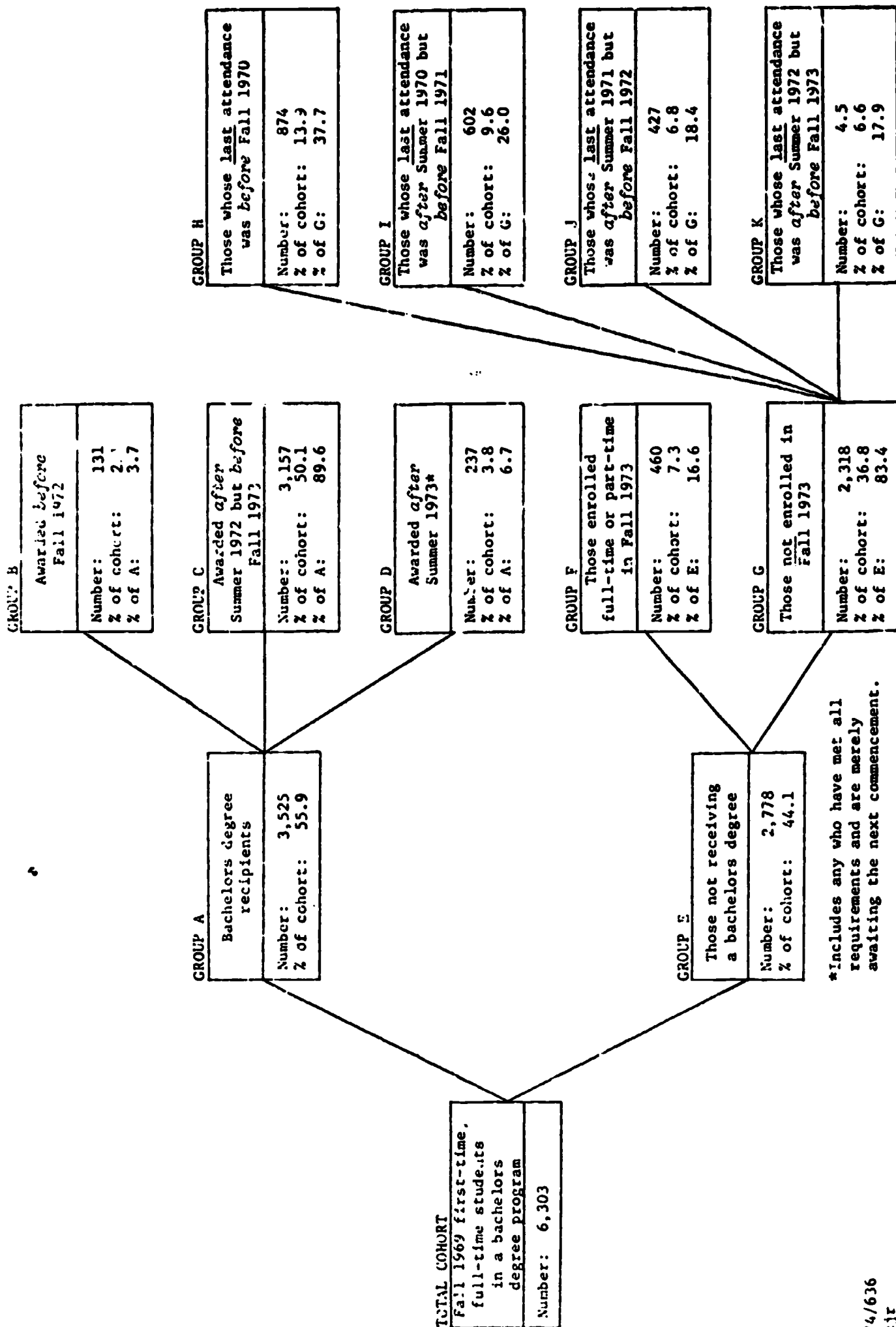
STUDENT RETENTION AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COMPARED WITH NATIONAL STUDENT RETENTION DATA^a



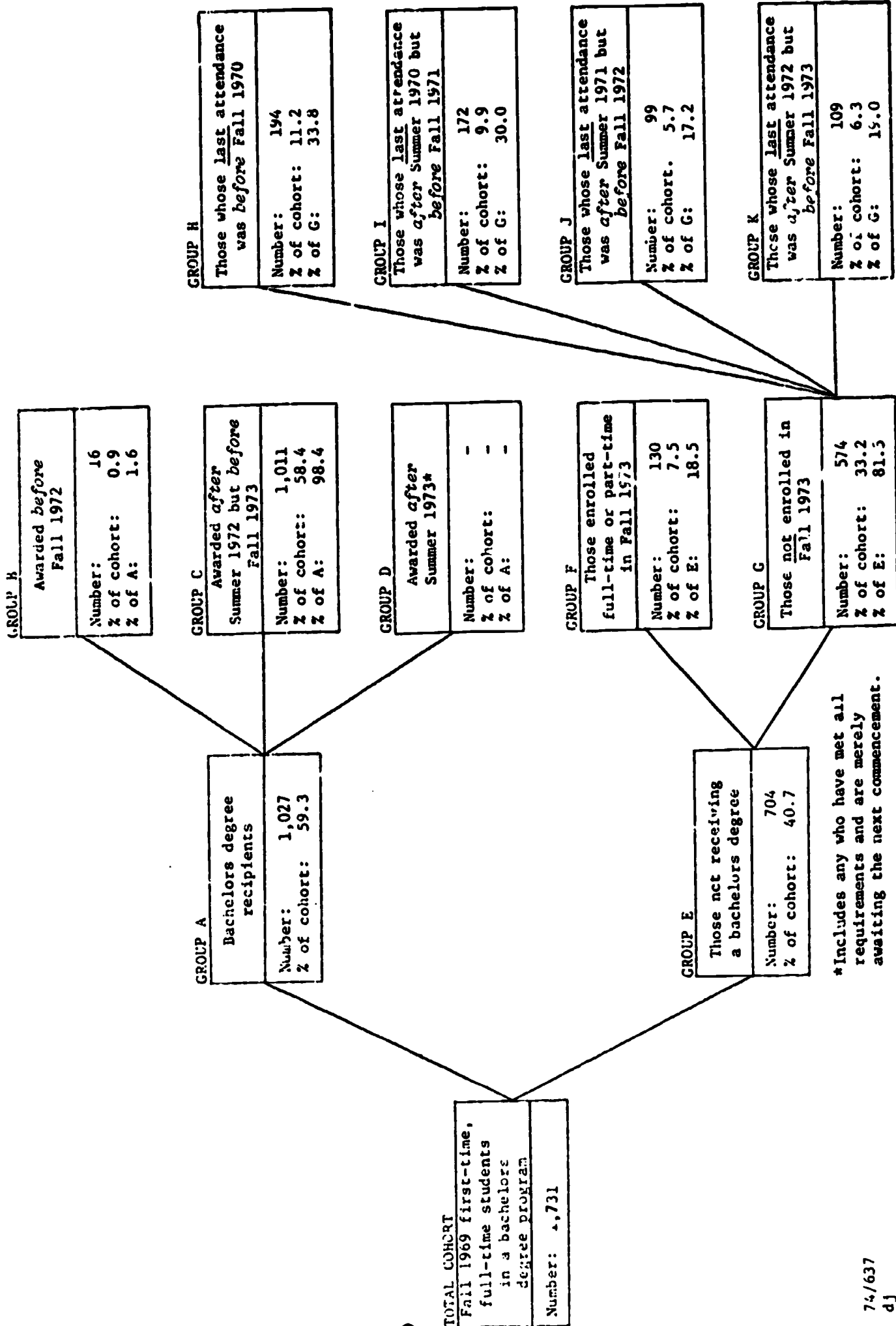
^a National data are derived from: Alexander Astin, College Dropouts: A National Profile; prepared under the auspices of The American Council on Education, 1972; see summary for further comments.

PART TWO
TABLES FOR INSTITUTIONS

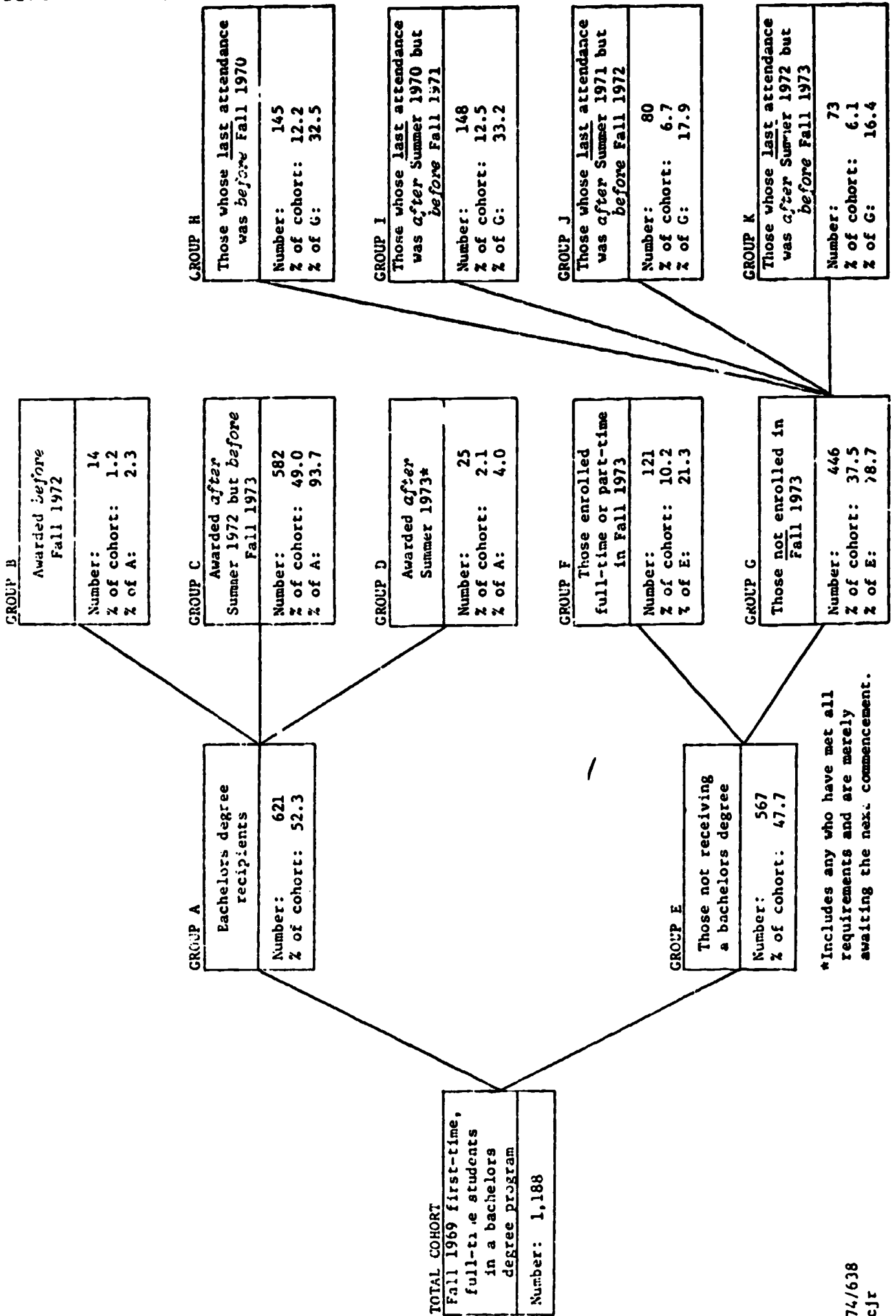
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
UNIVERSITY CENTERS



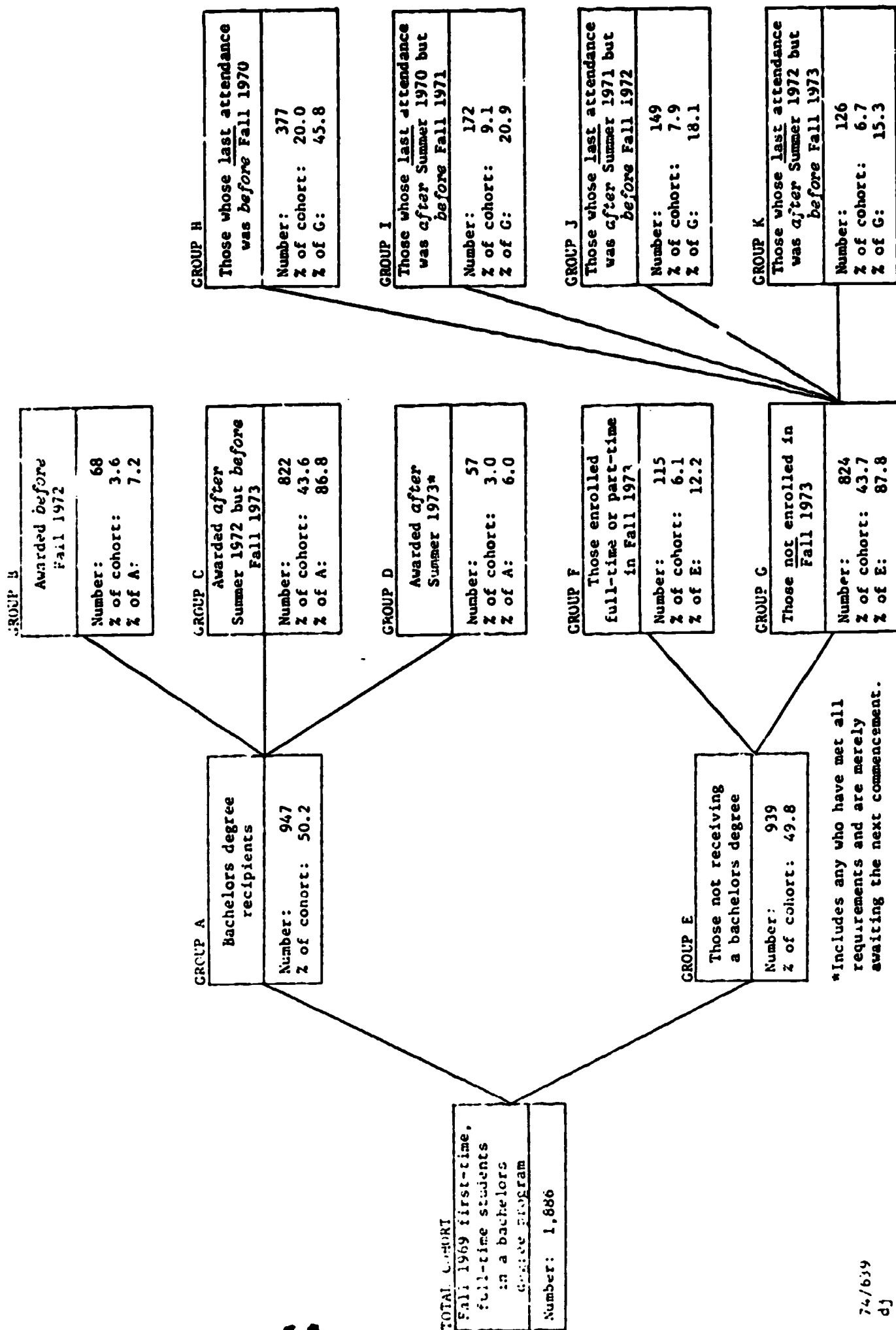
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY



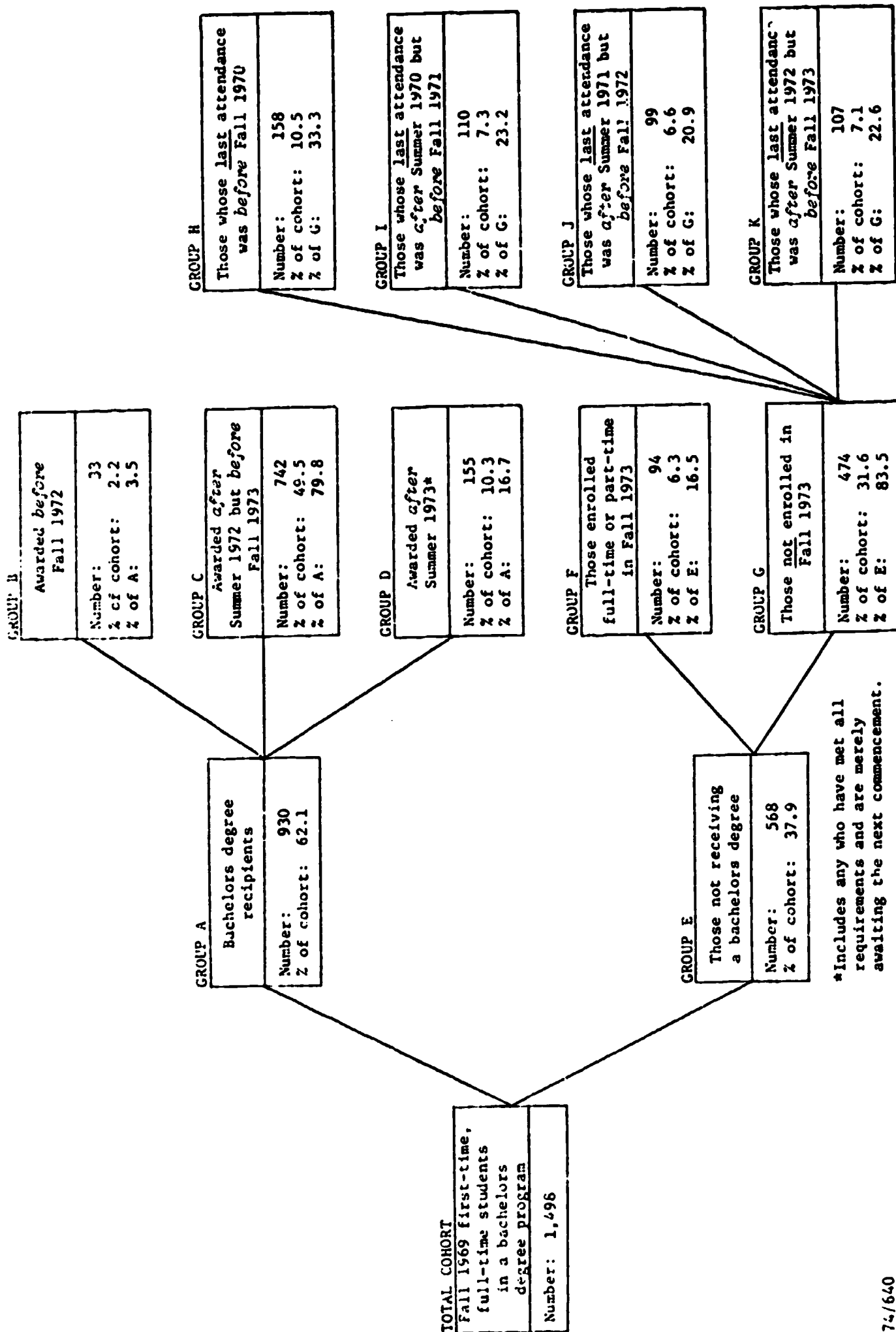
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON



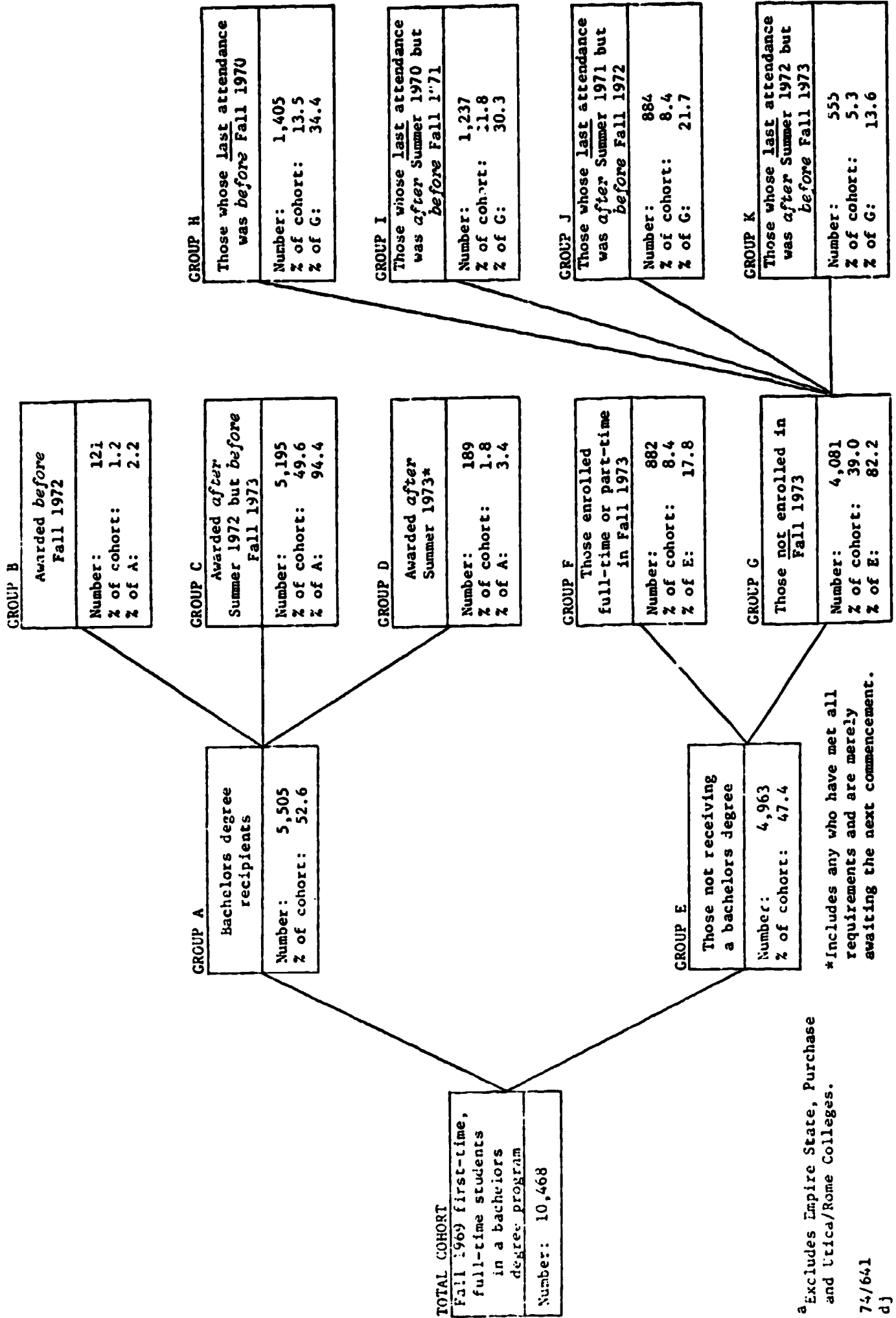
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO



ATTENTION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK

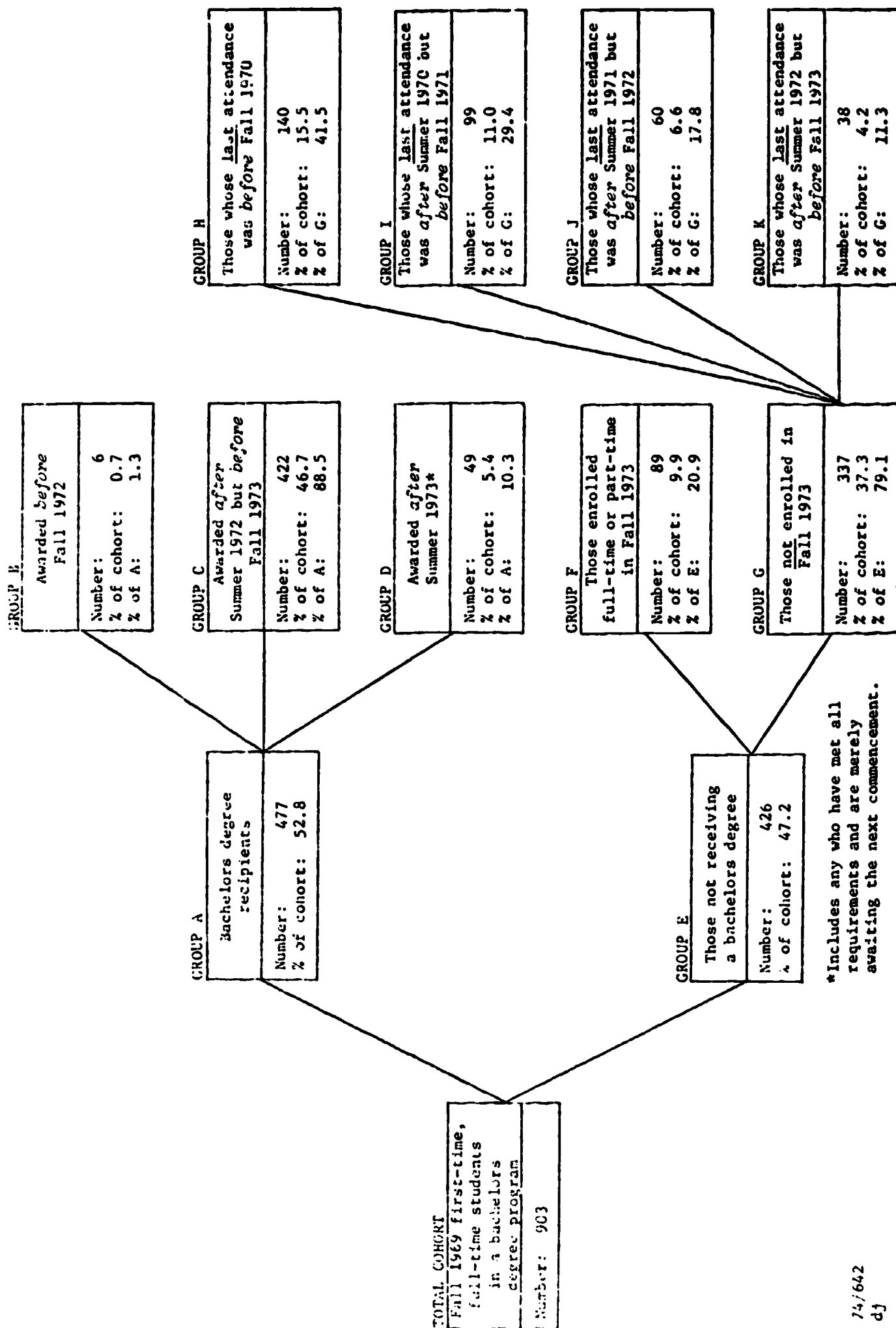


ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
UNIVERSITY COLLEGES^a

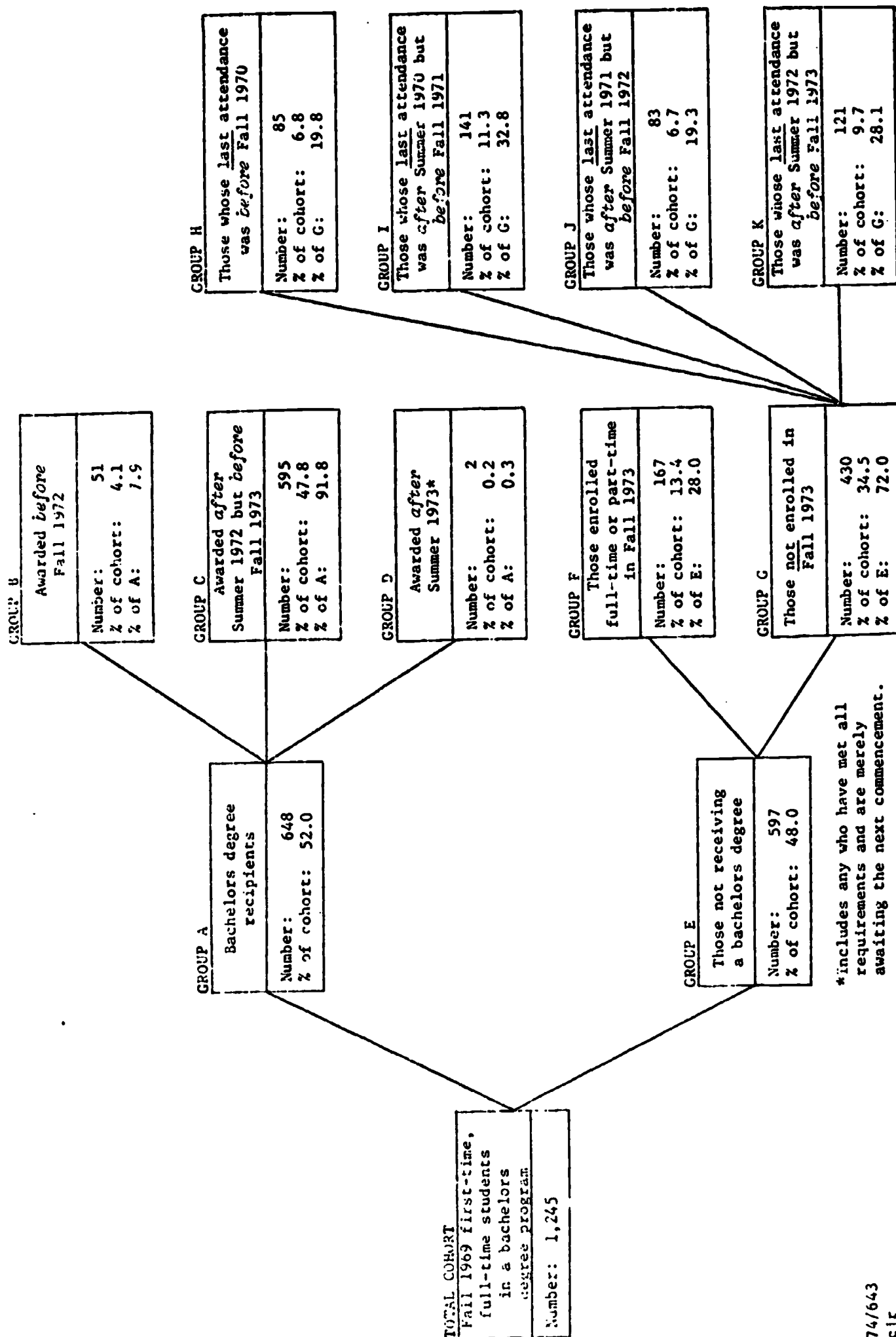


^a Excludes Empire State, Purchase and Utica/Rome Colleges.

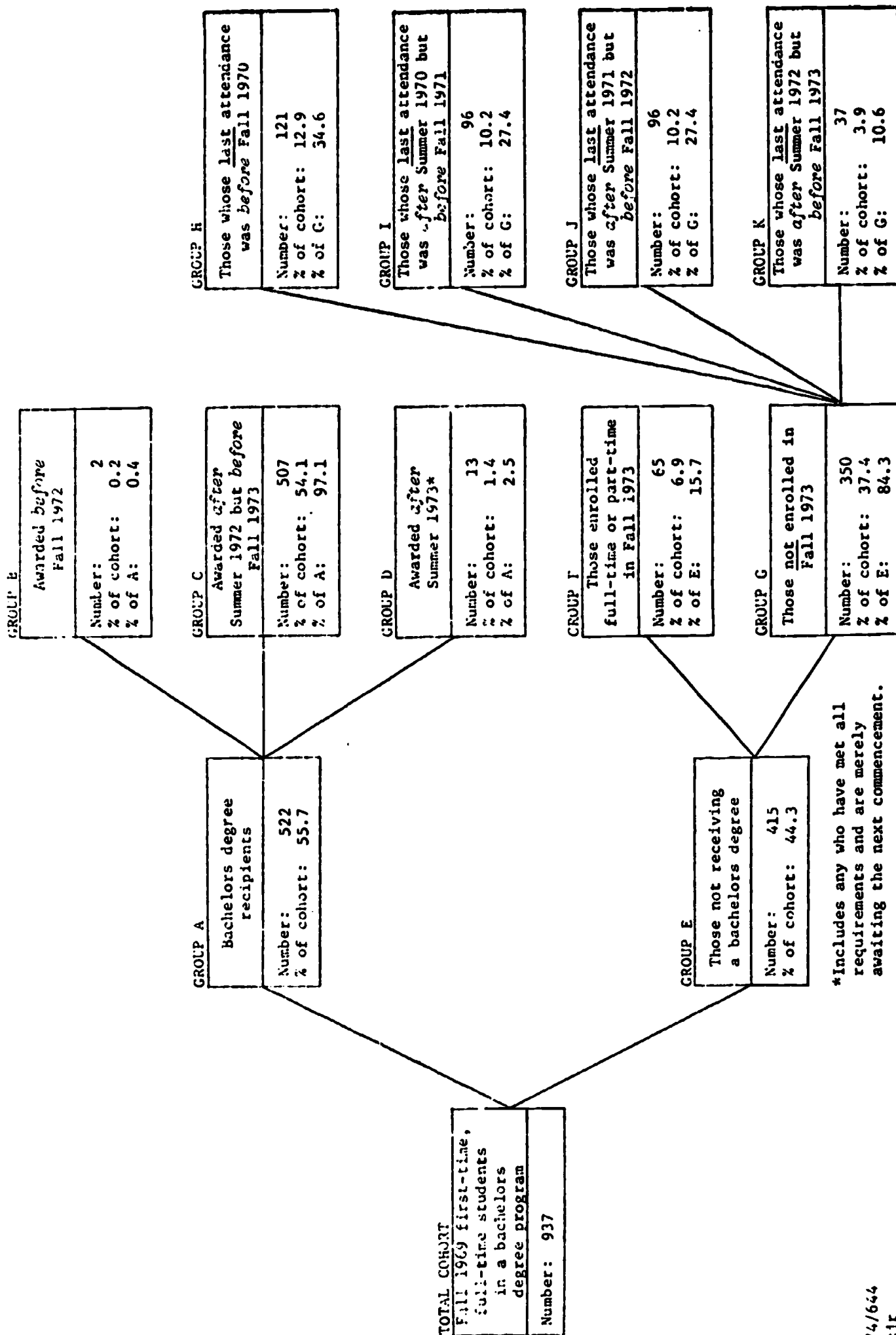
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STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT



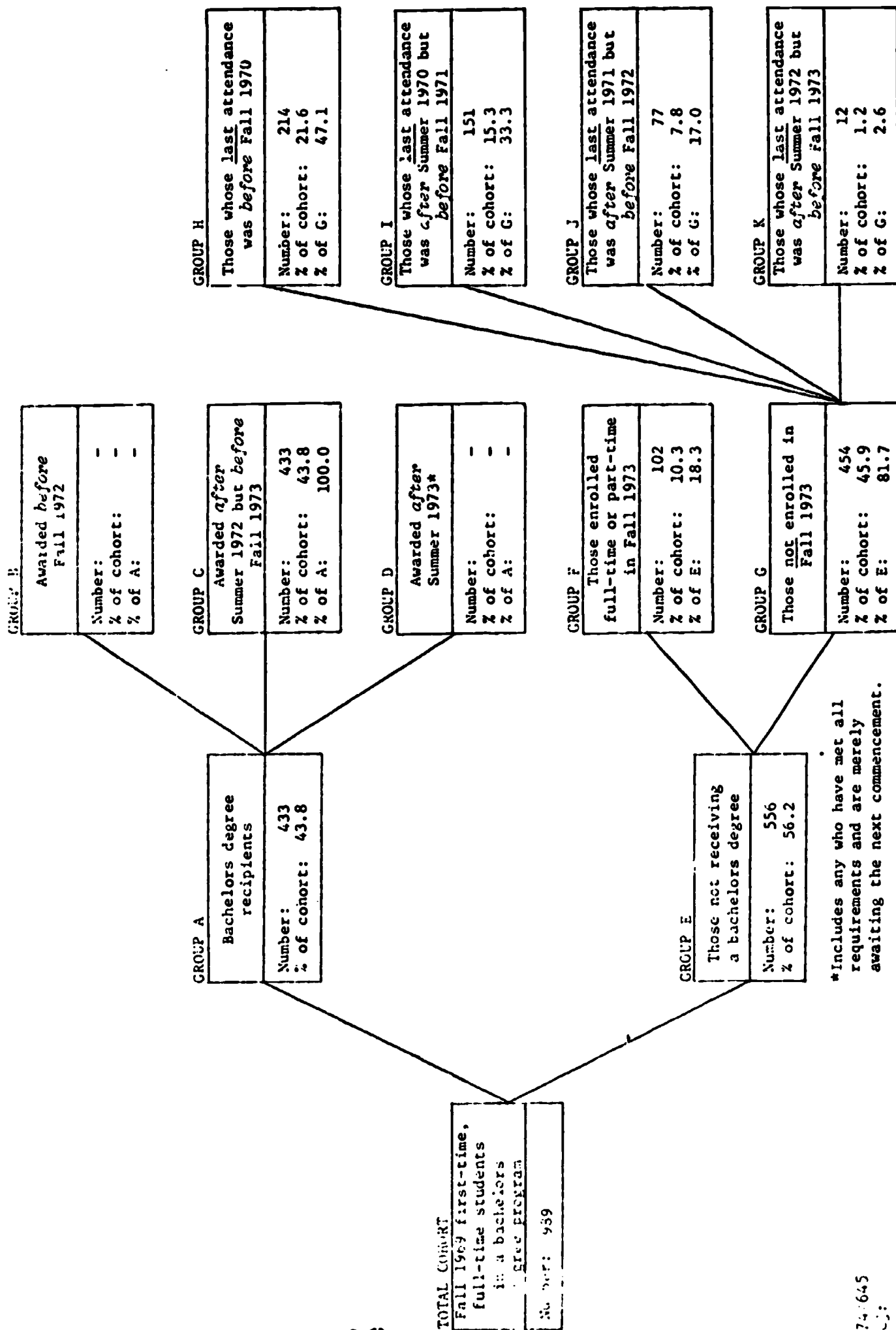
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT BUFFALO



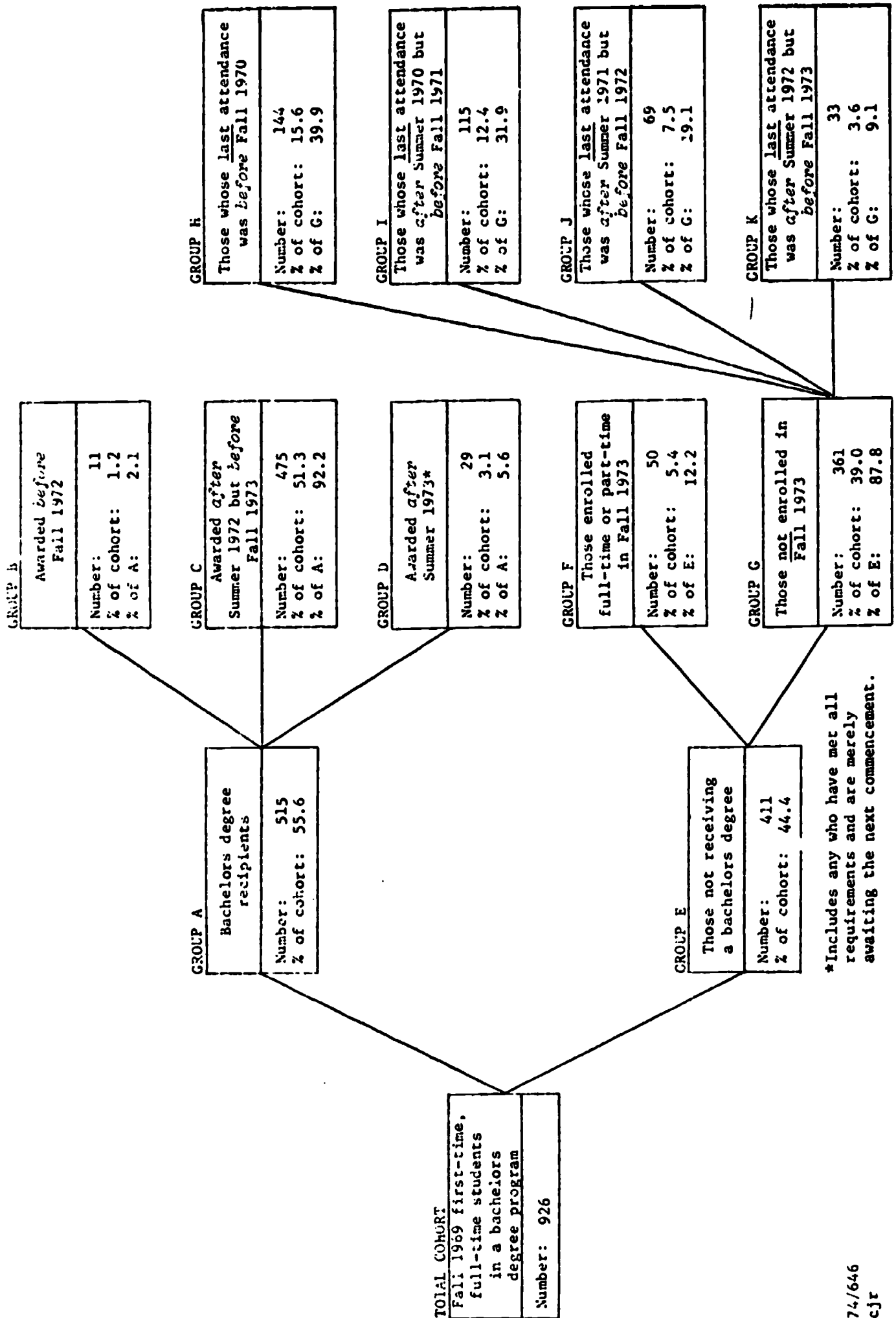
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT CORTLAND



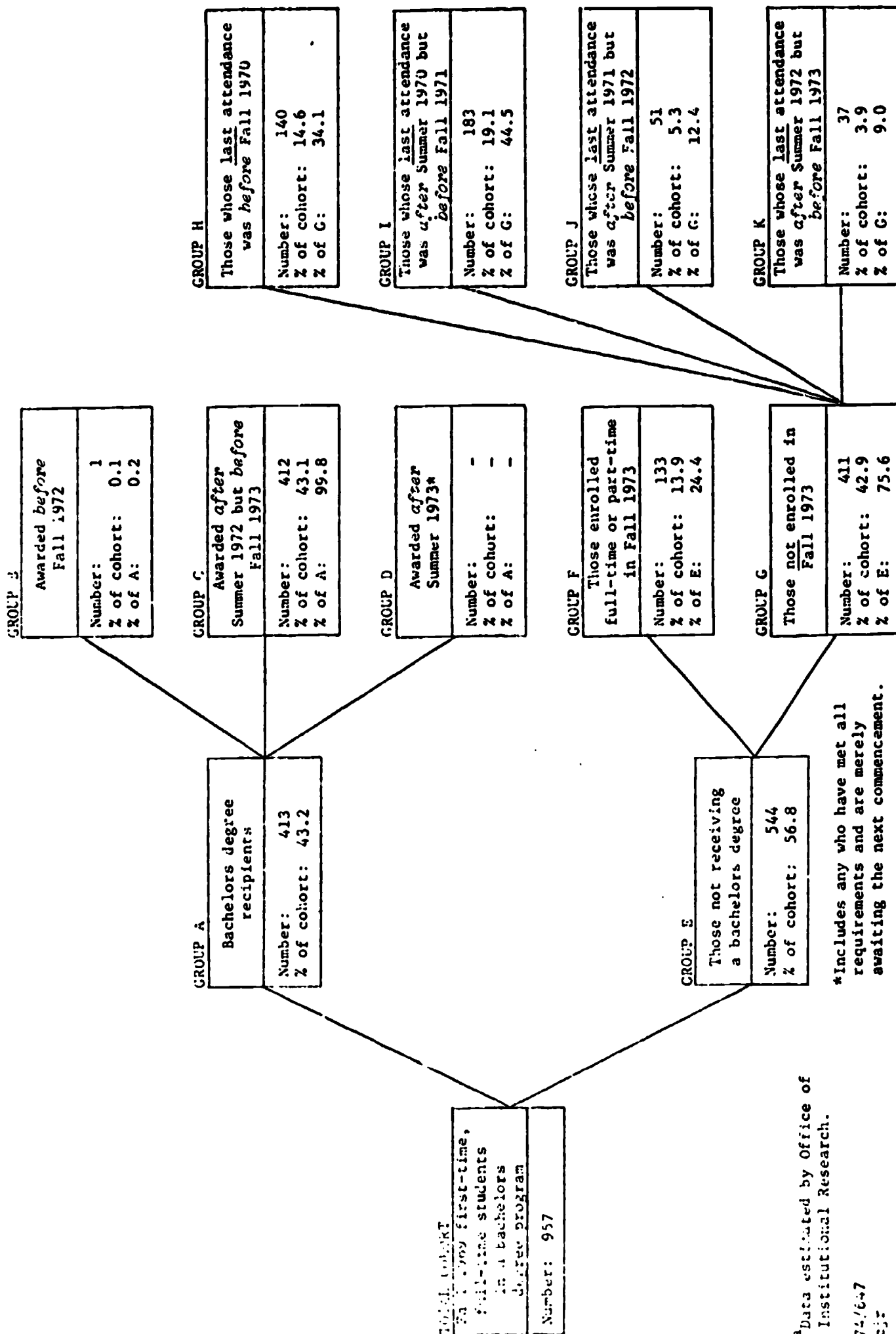
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STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT FREDONIA



ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT GENESEO

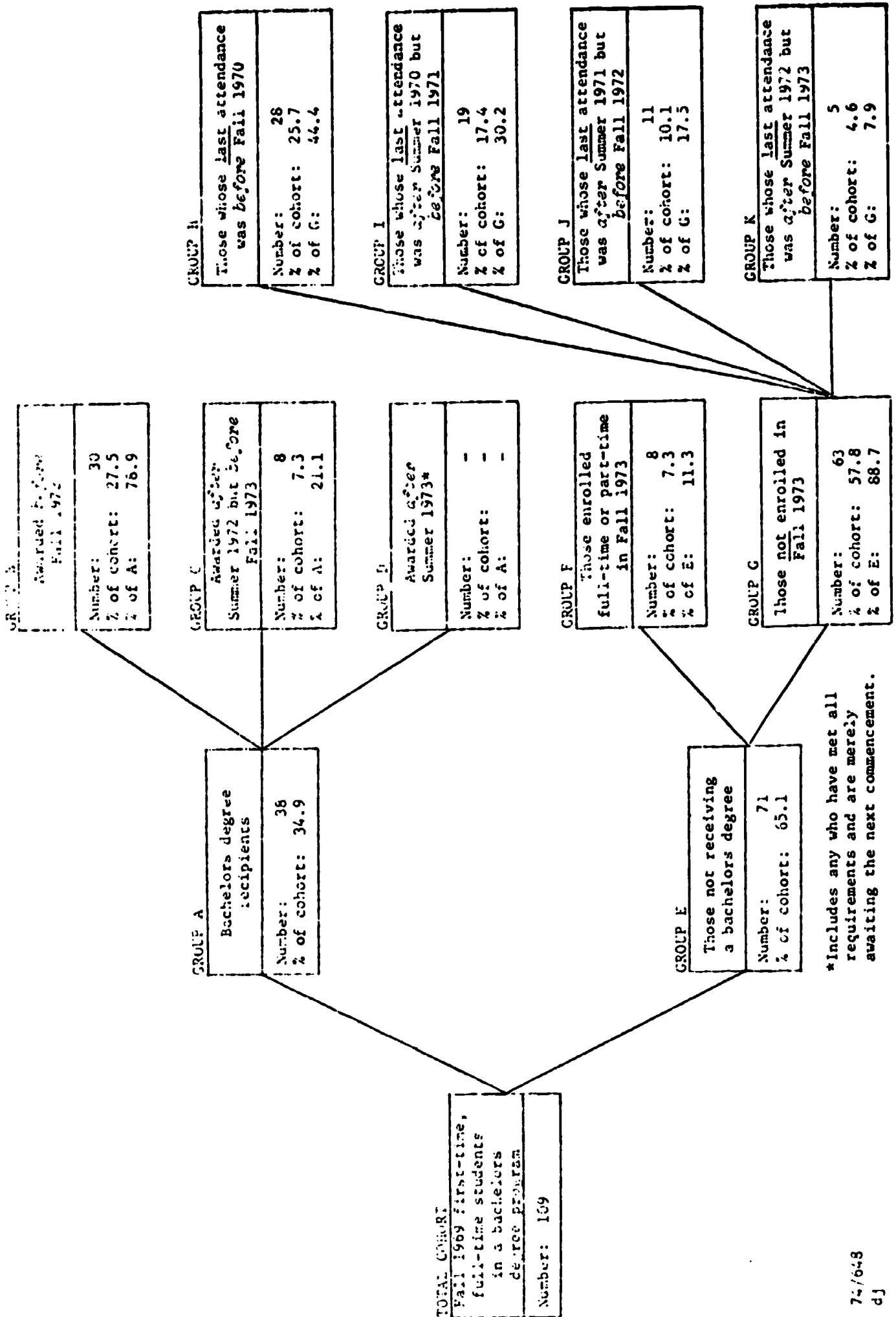


ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT NEW PALTZ^a

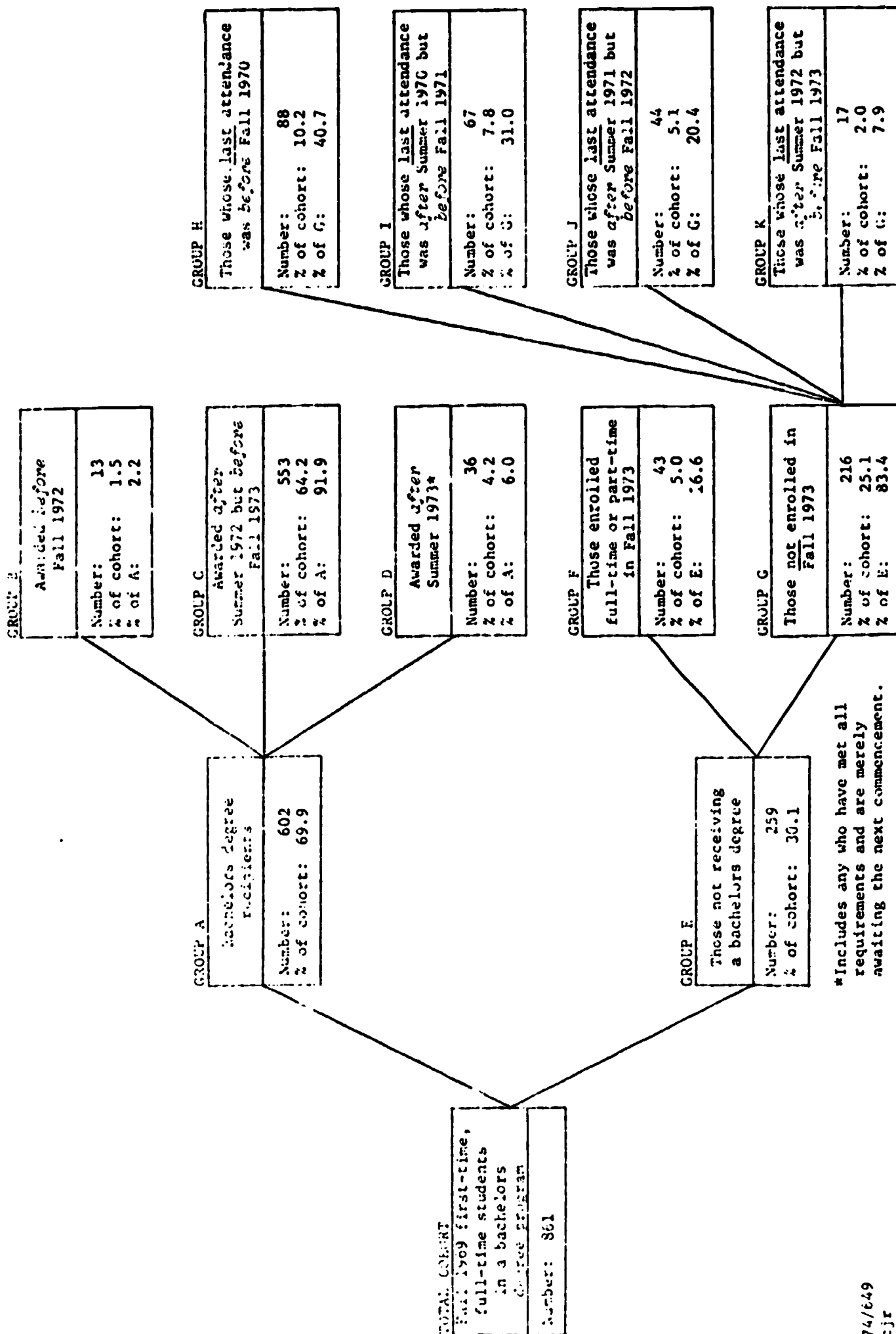


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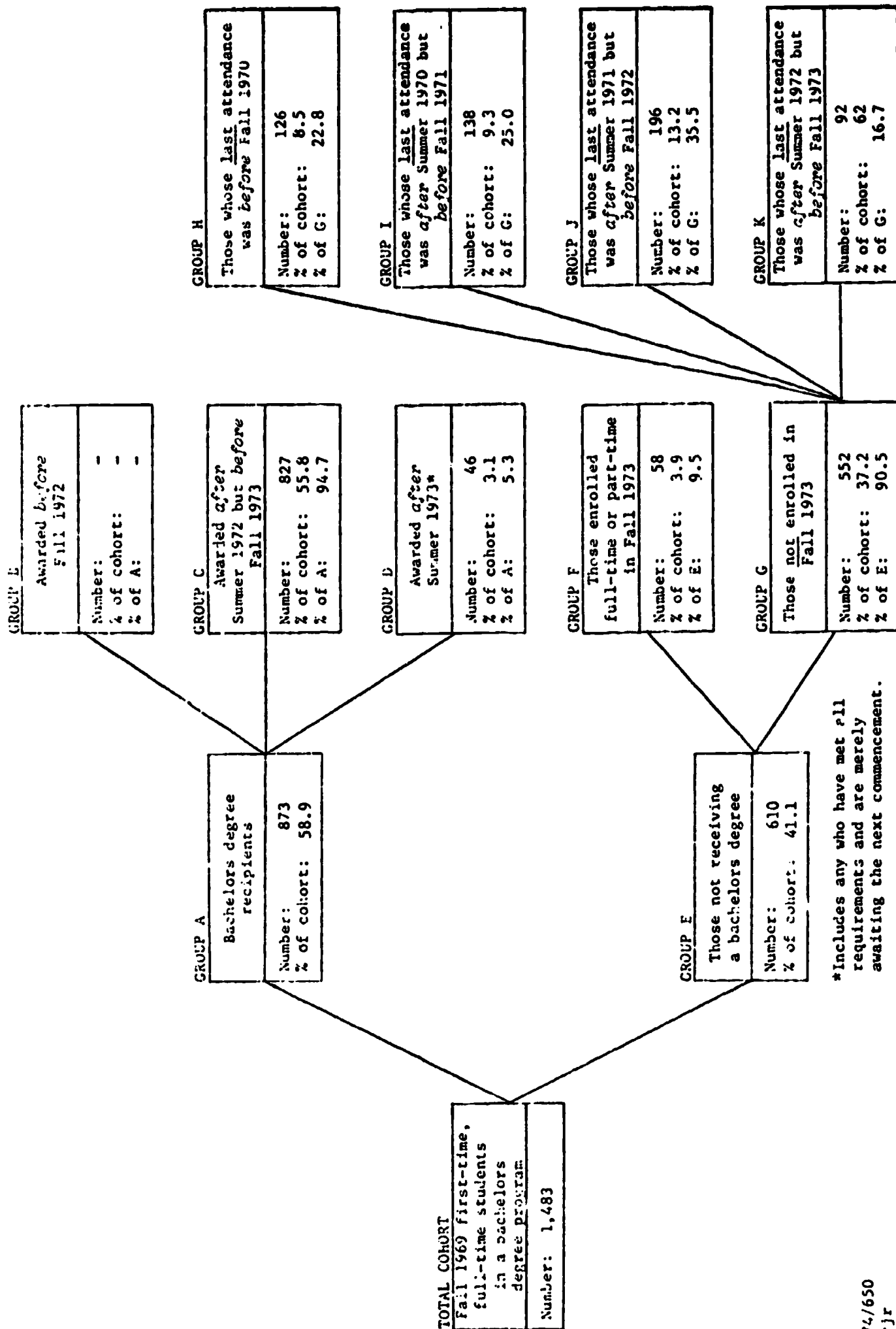
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY



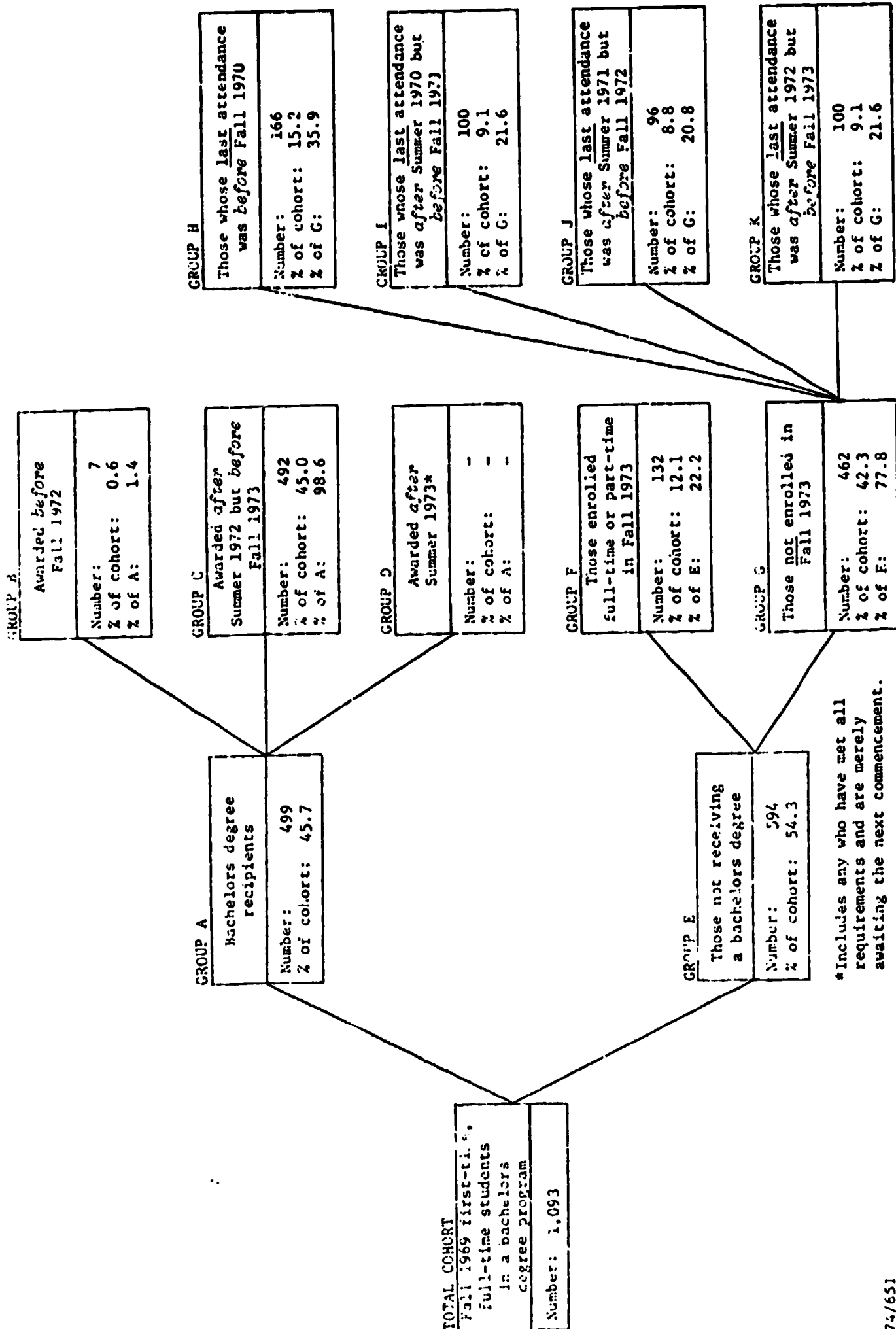
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT ONEONTA



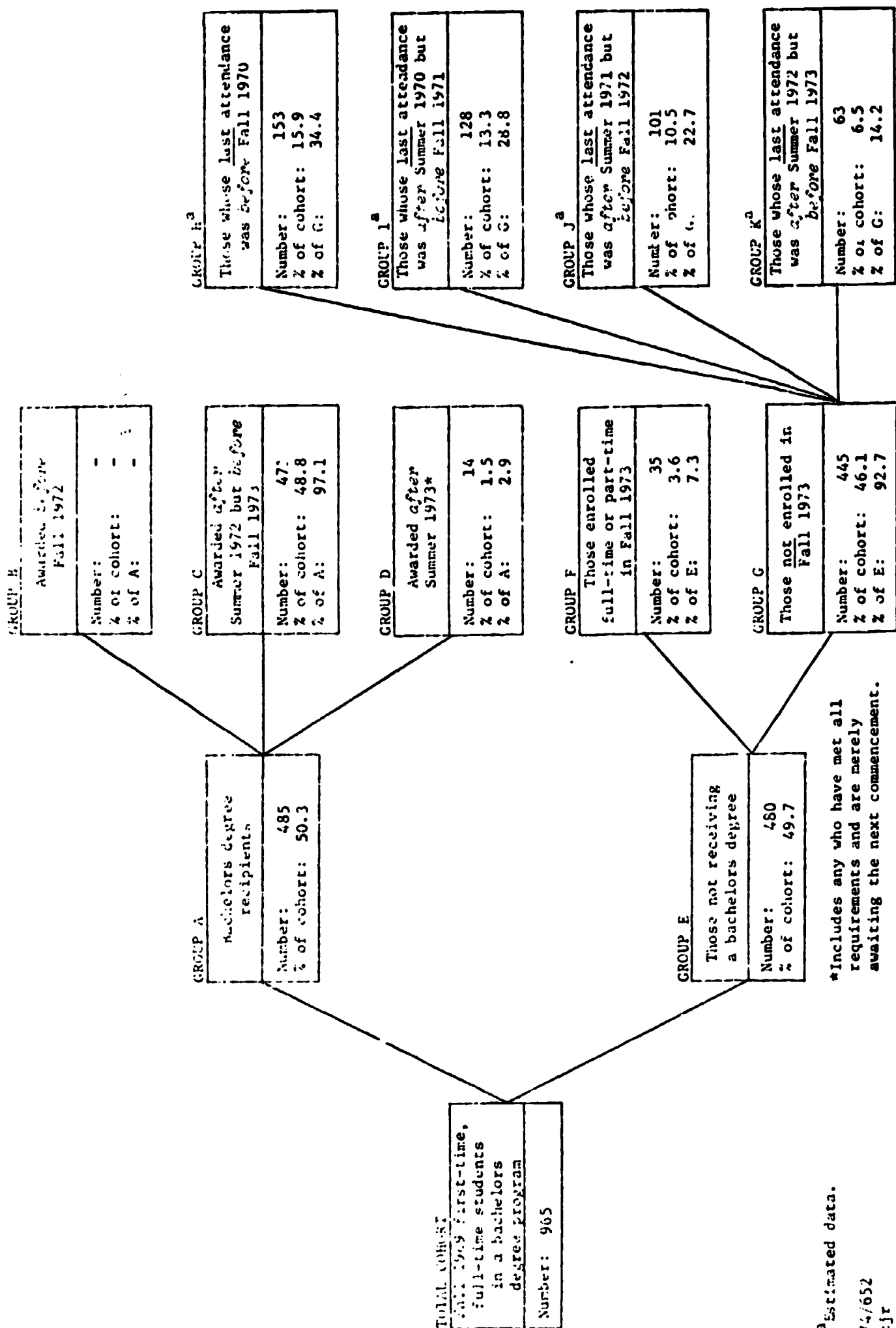
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT OSWEGO



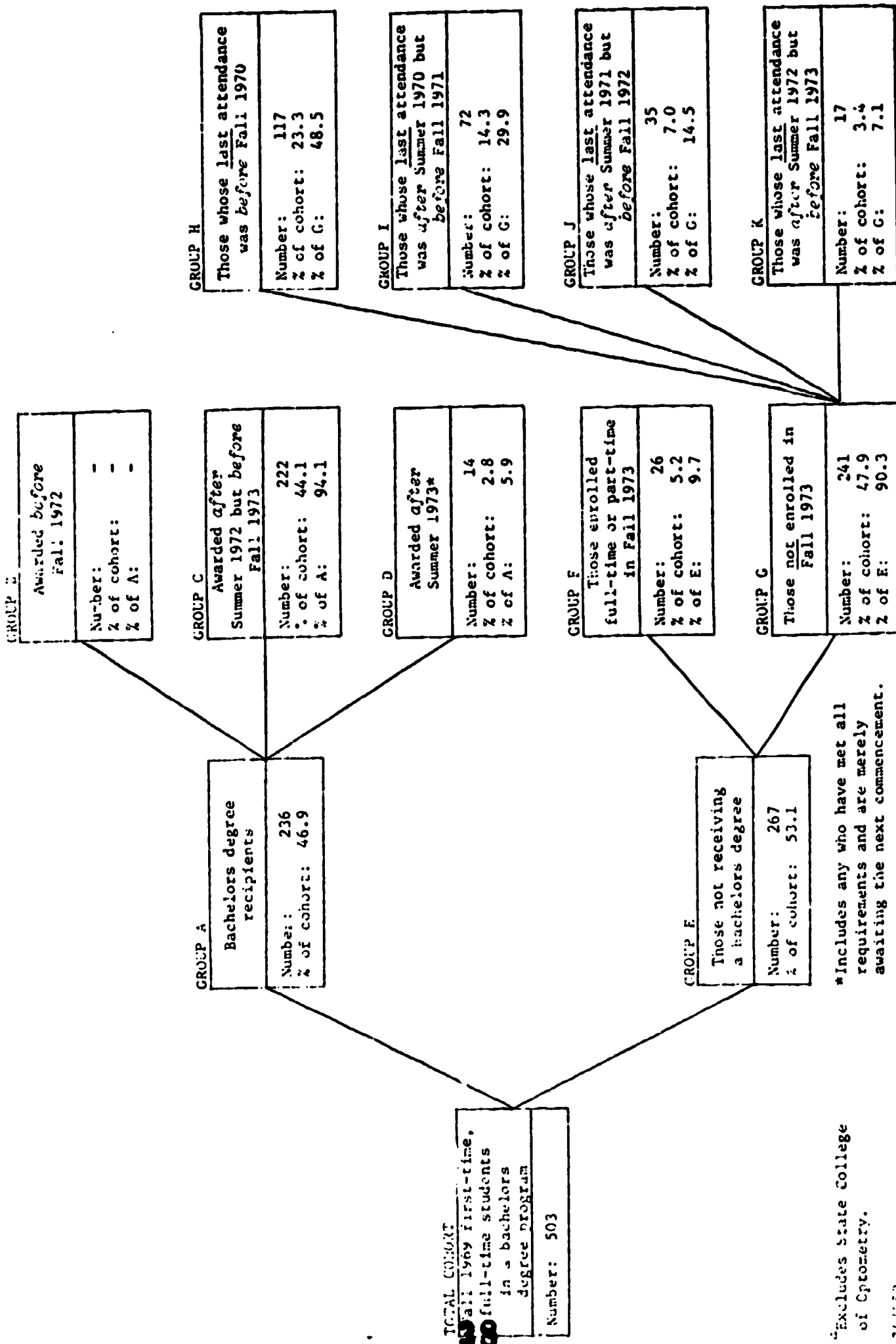
ATTRITION, RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT PLATTSBURGH



ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT POTSDAM



ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
SPECIALIZED COLLEGES

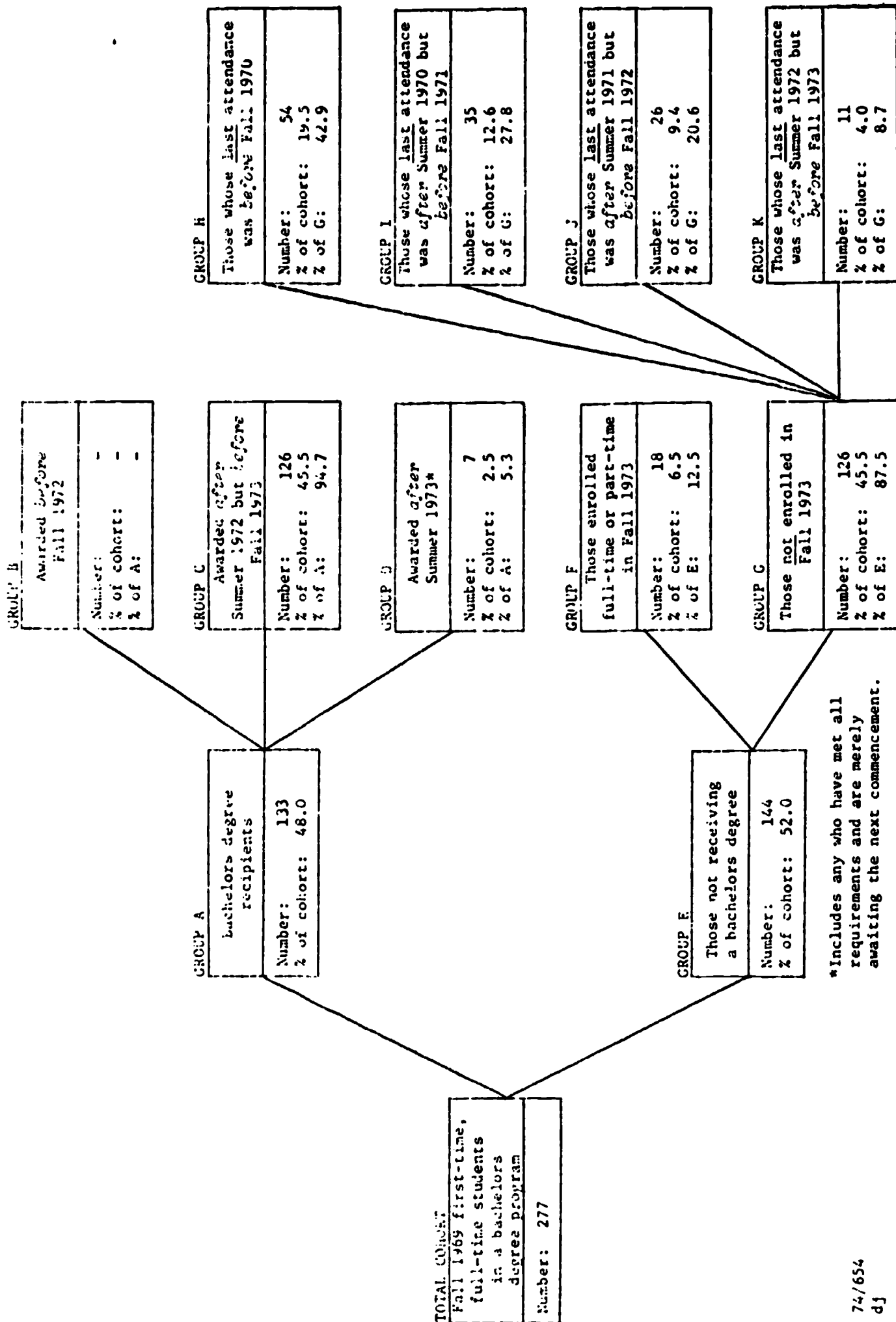


*Excludes State College of Optometry.

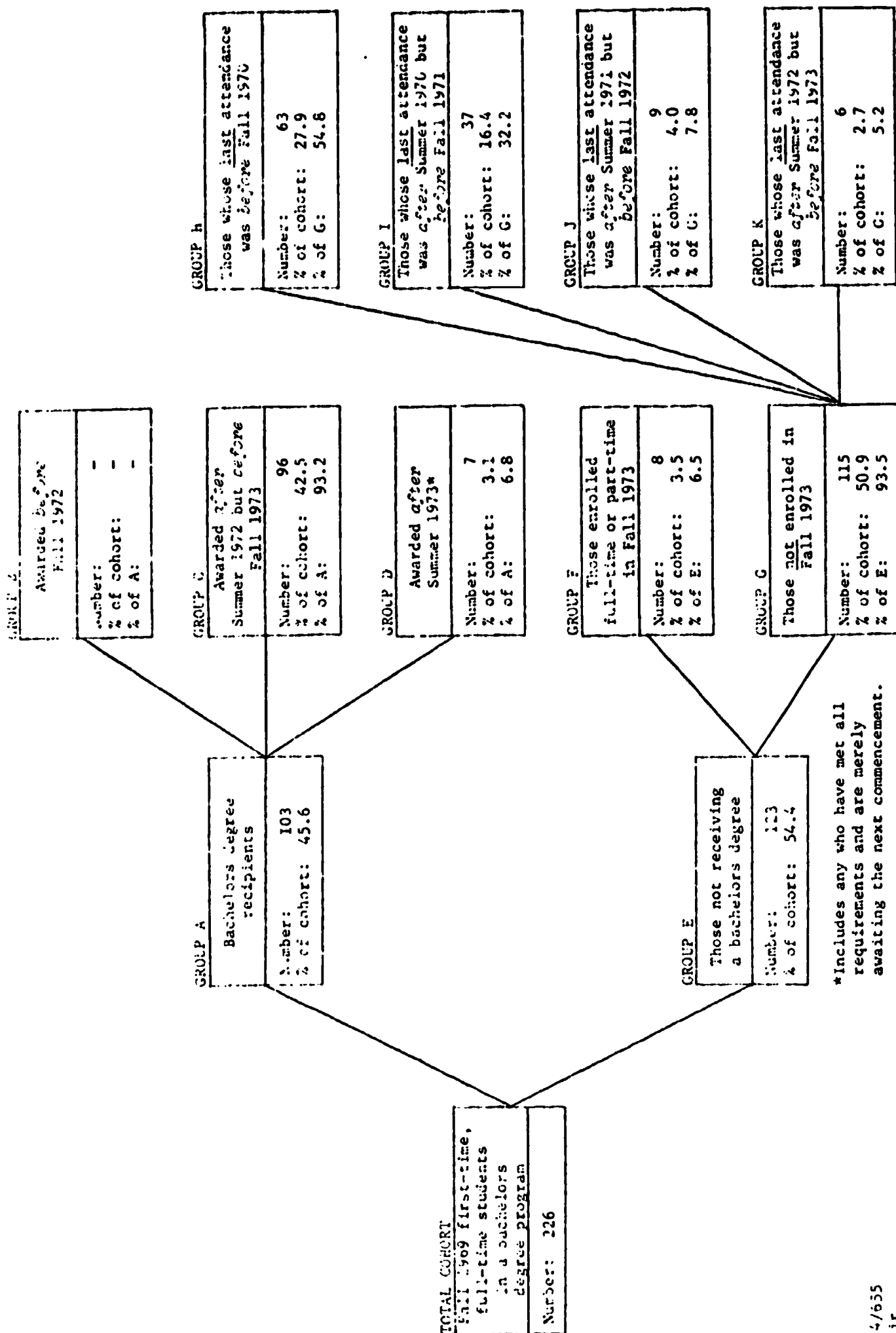
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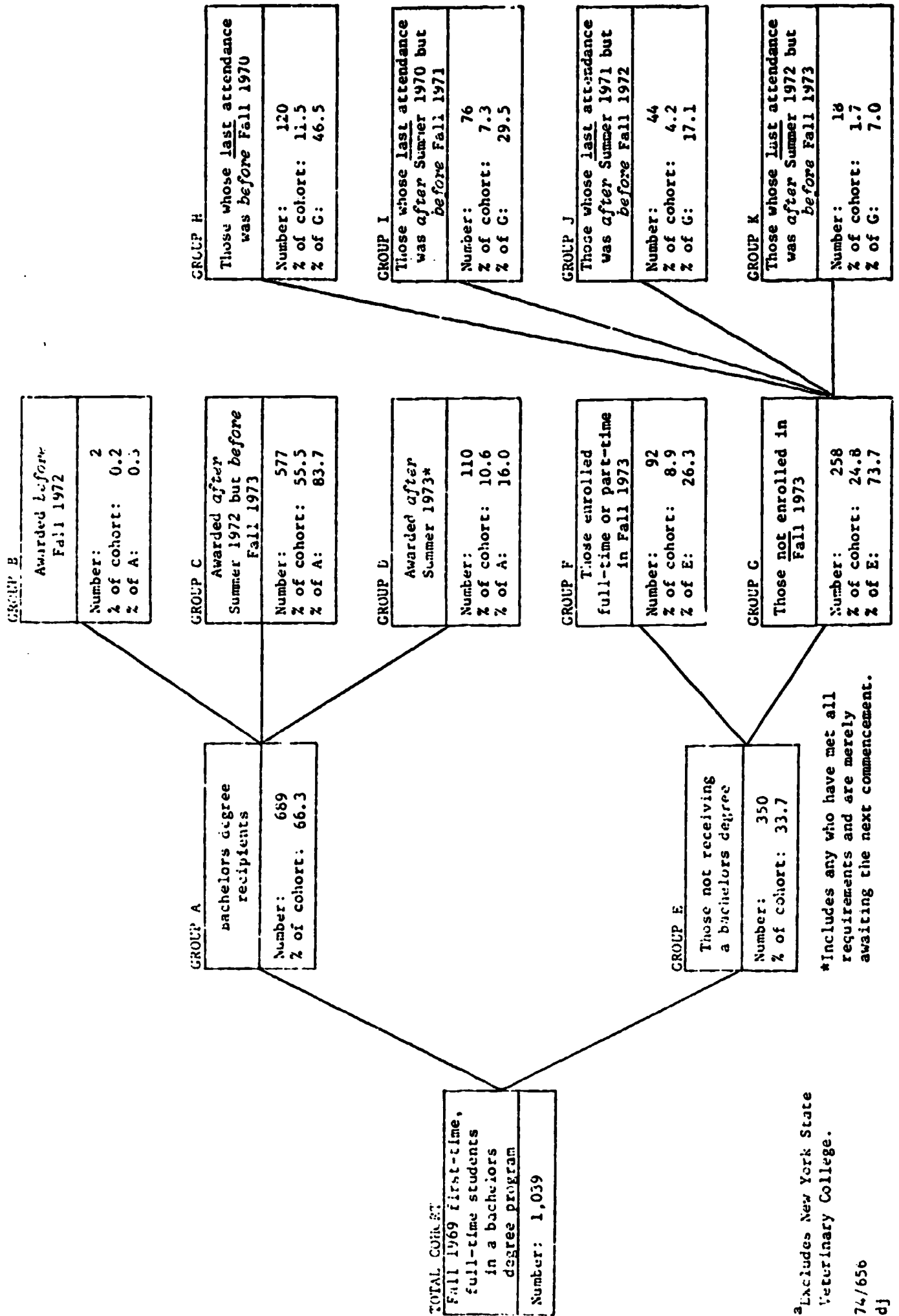
ALLOCATION/REDUCTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY



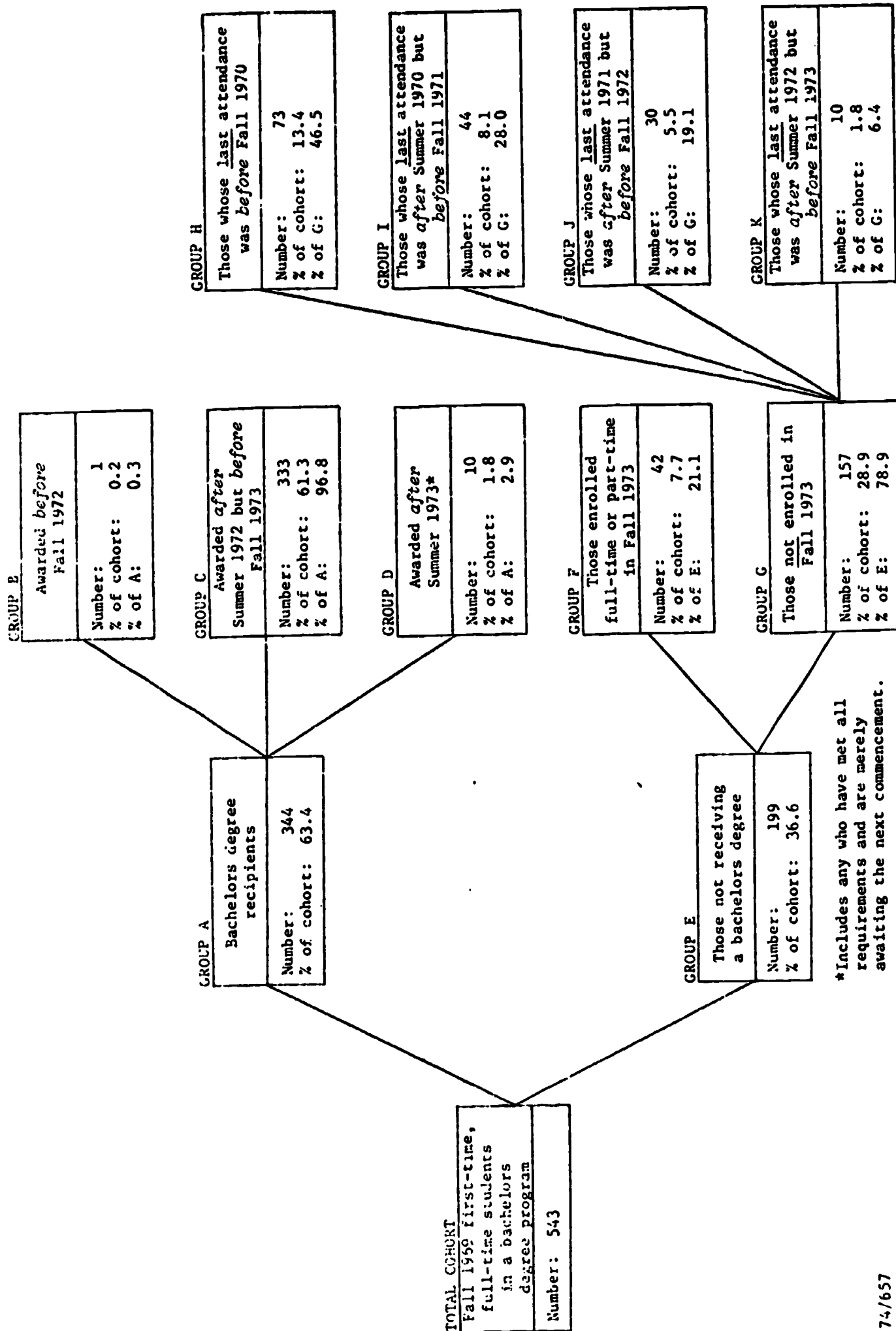
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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK MARITIME COLLEGE



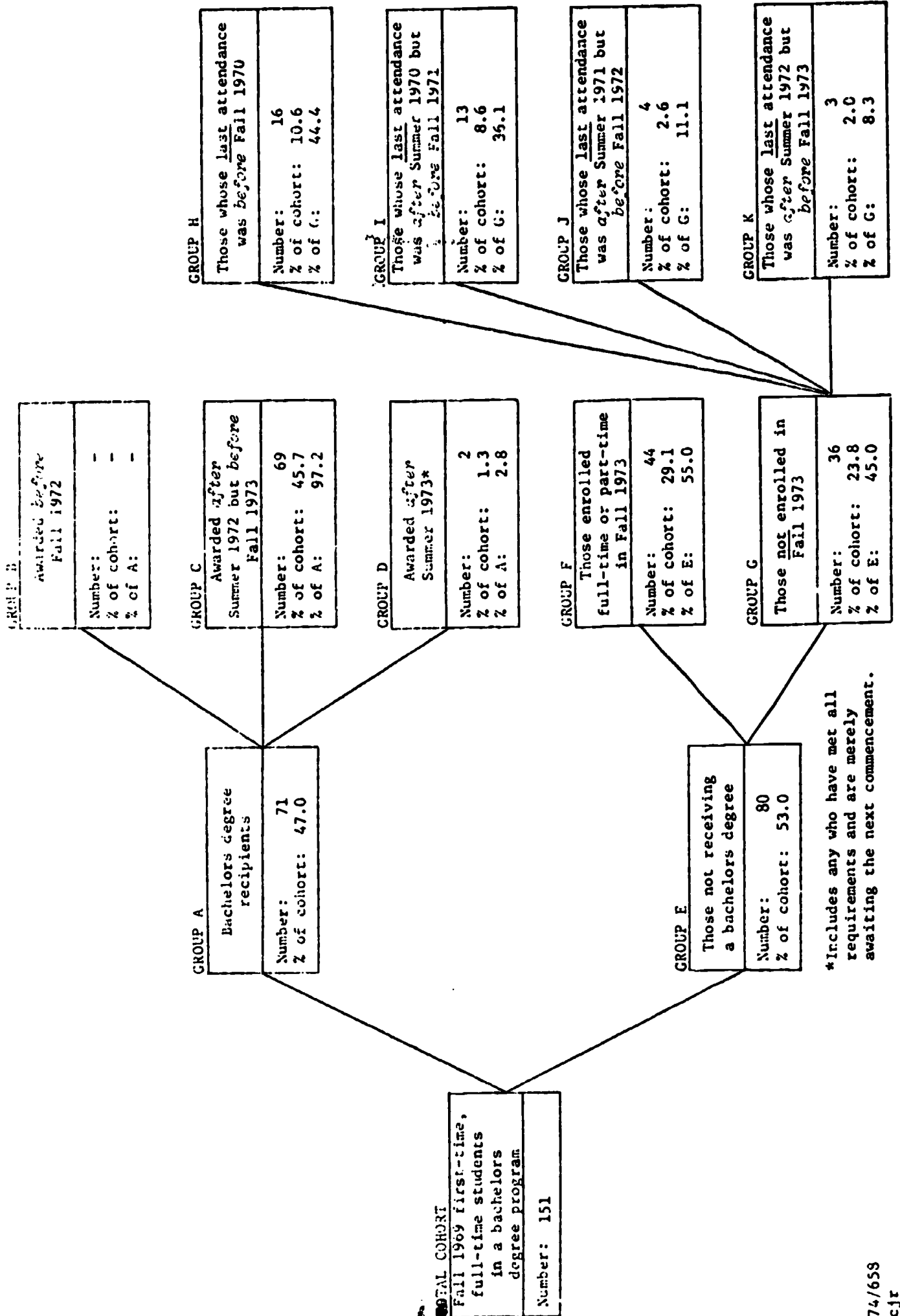
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
STATUTORY COLLEGES^a



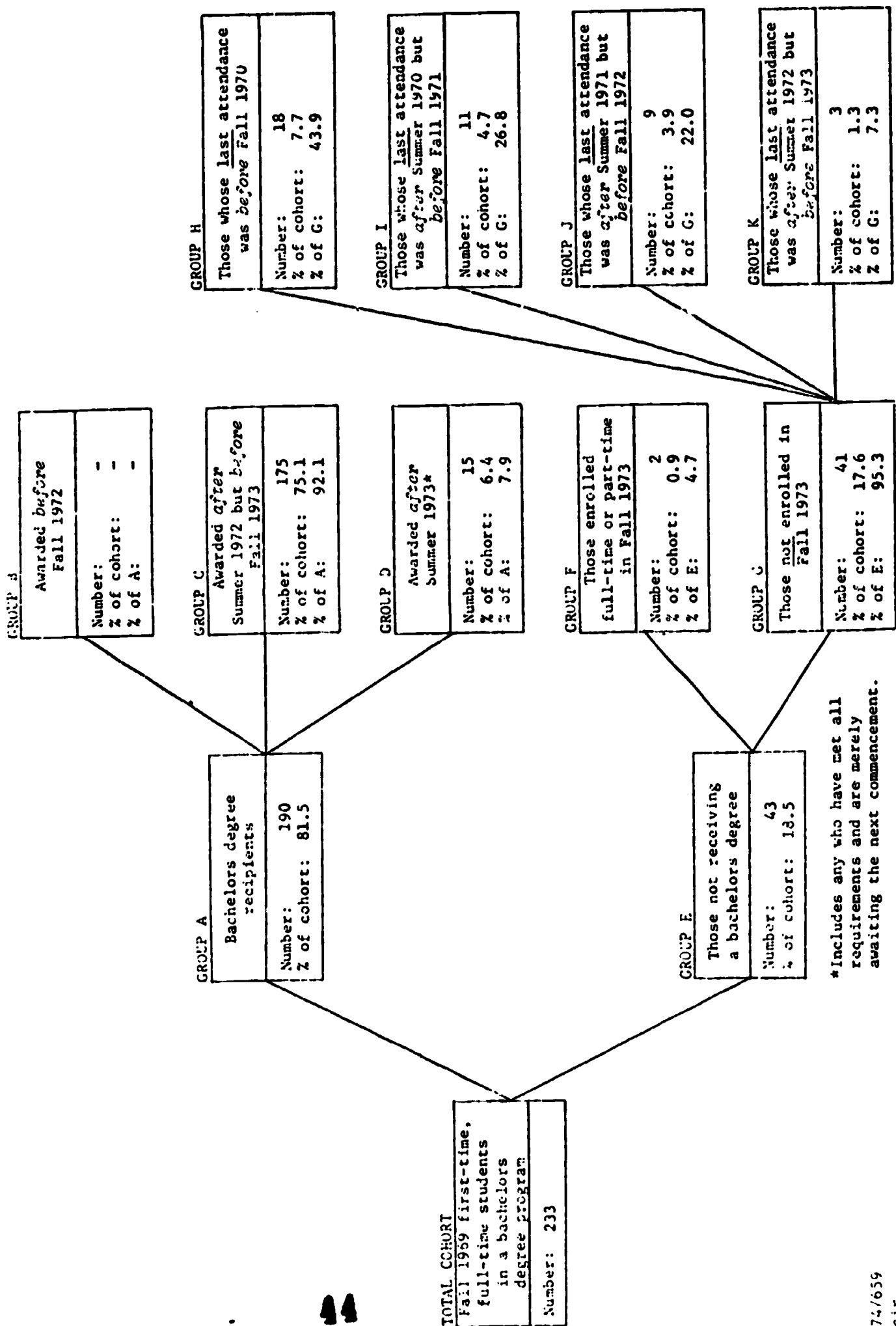
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES



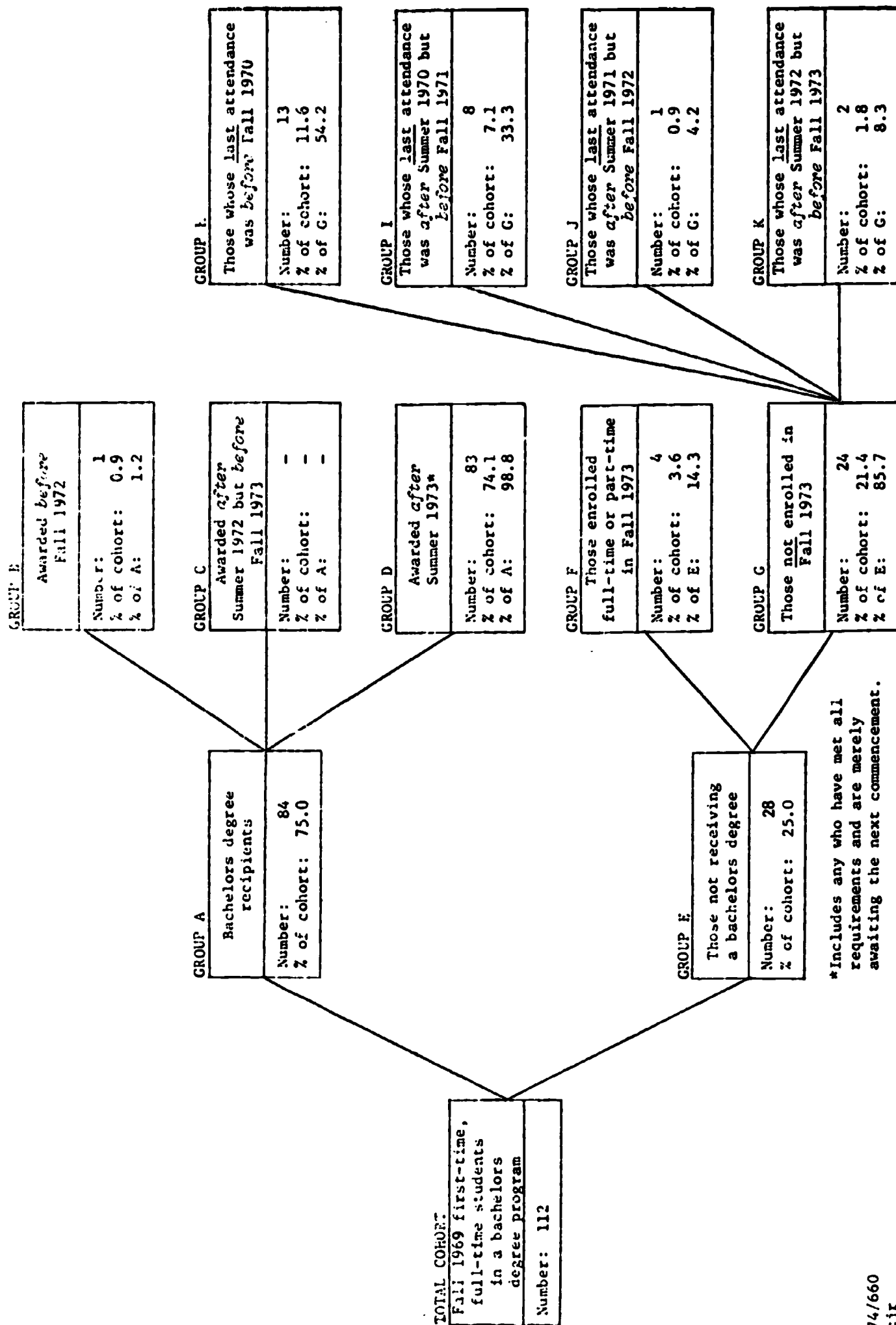
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF CERAMICS



ATTRITION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

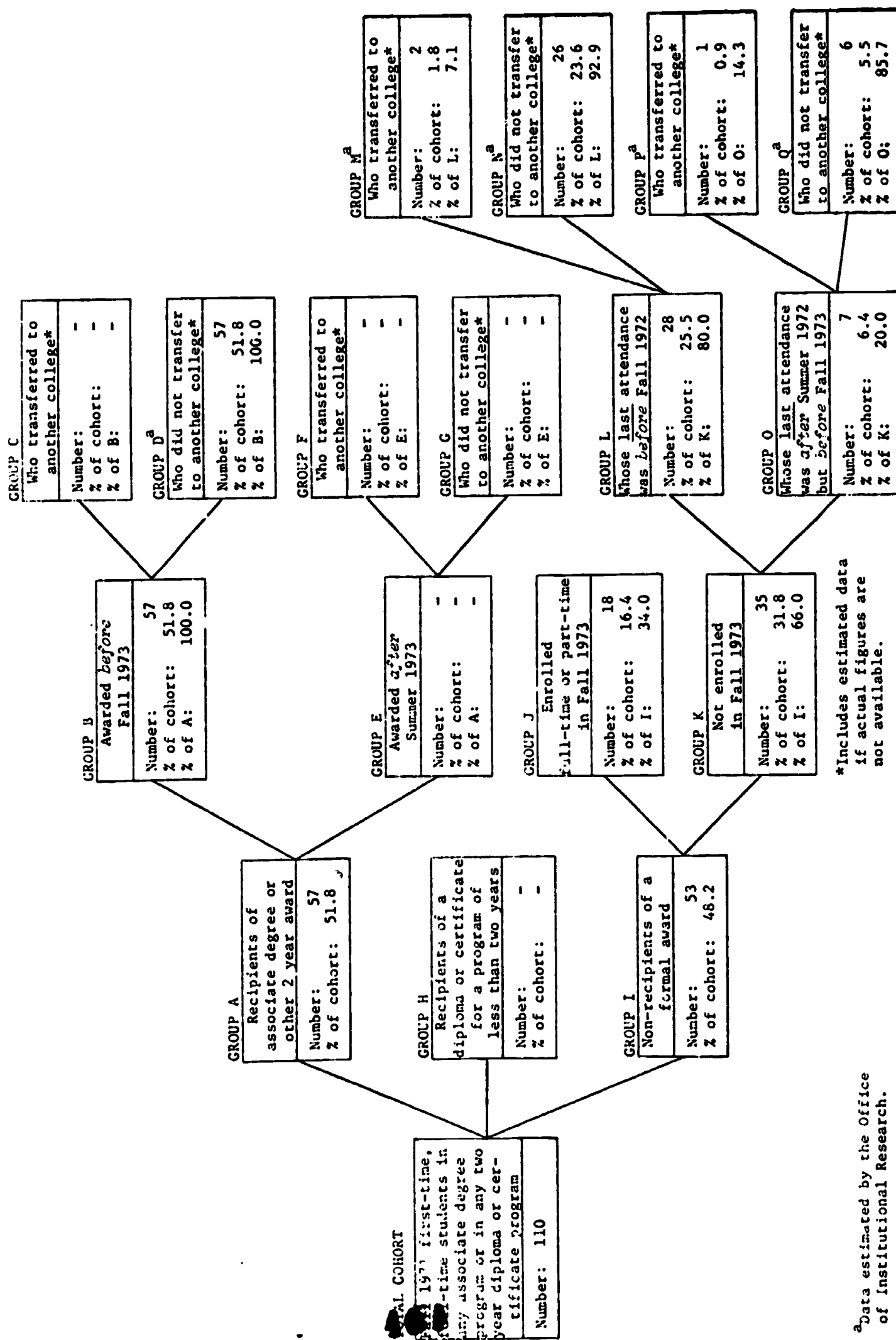


ATTENTION/RETENTION IN BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT
NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR RELATIONS



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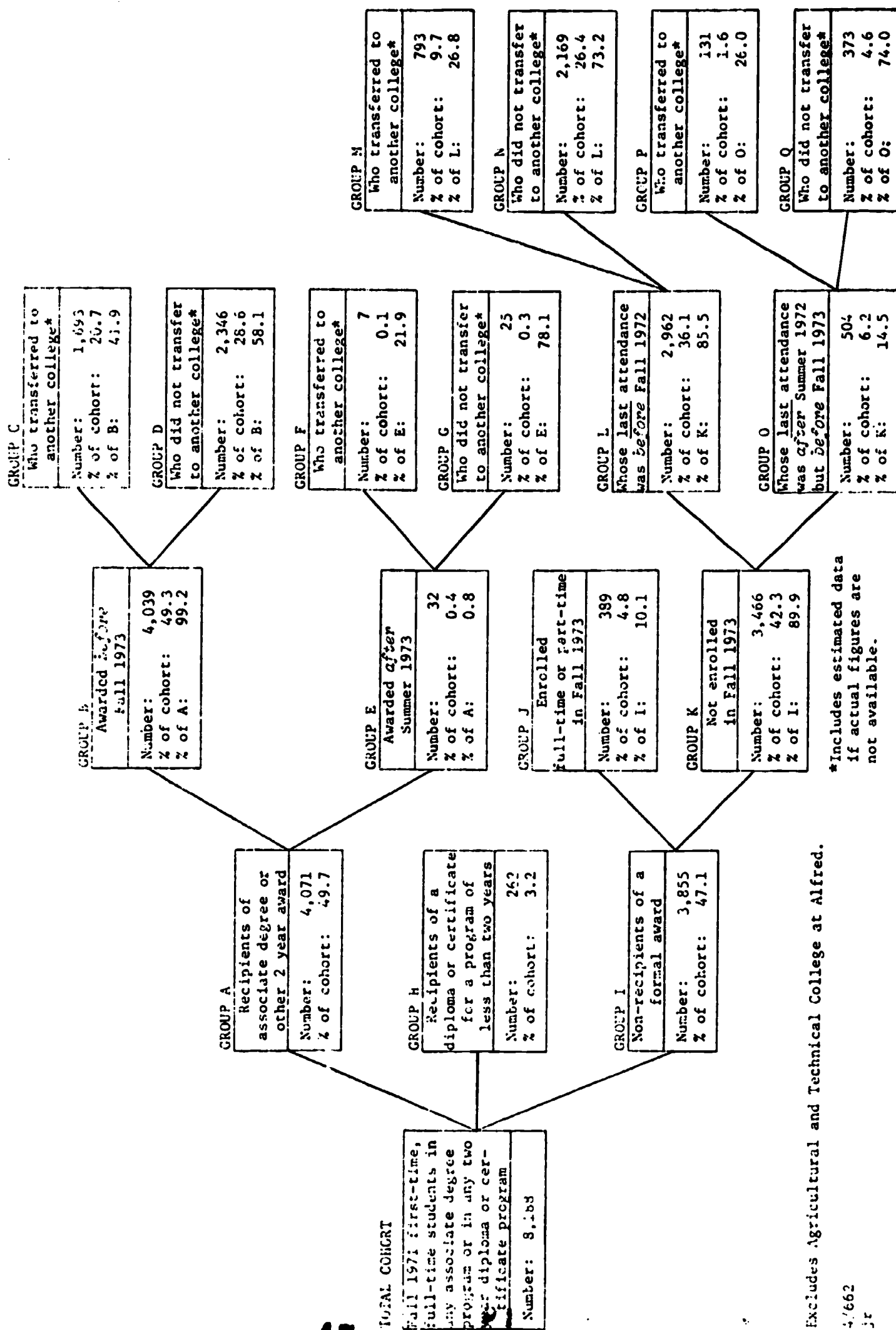
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK UPSTATE MEDICAL CENTER



^aData estimated by the Office
of Institutional Research.

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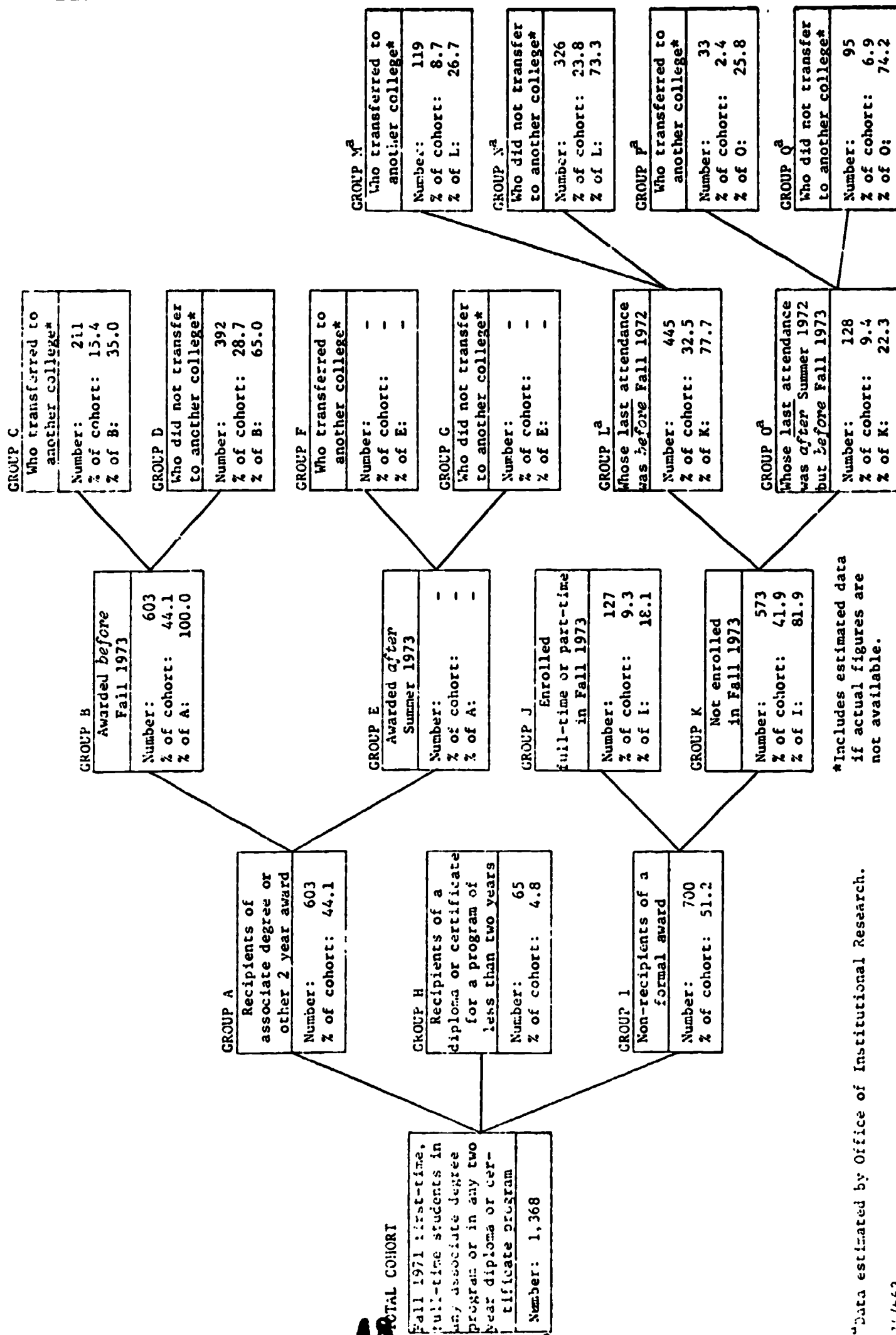
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES^a



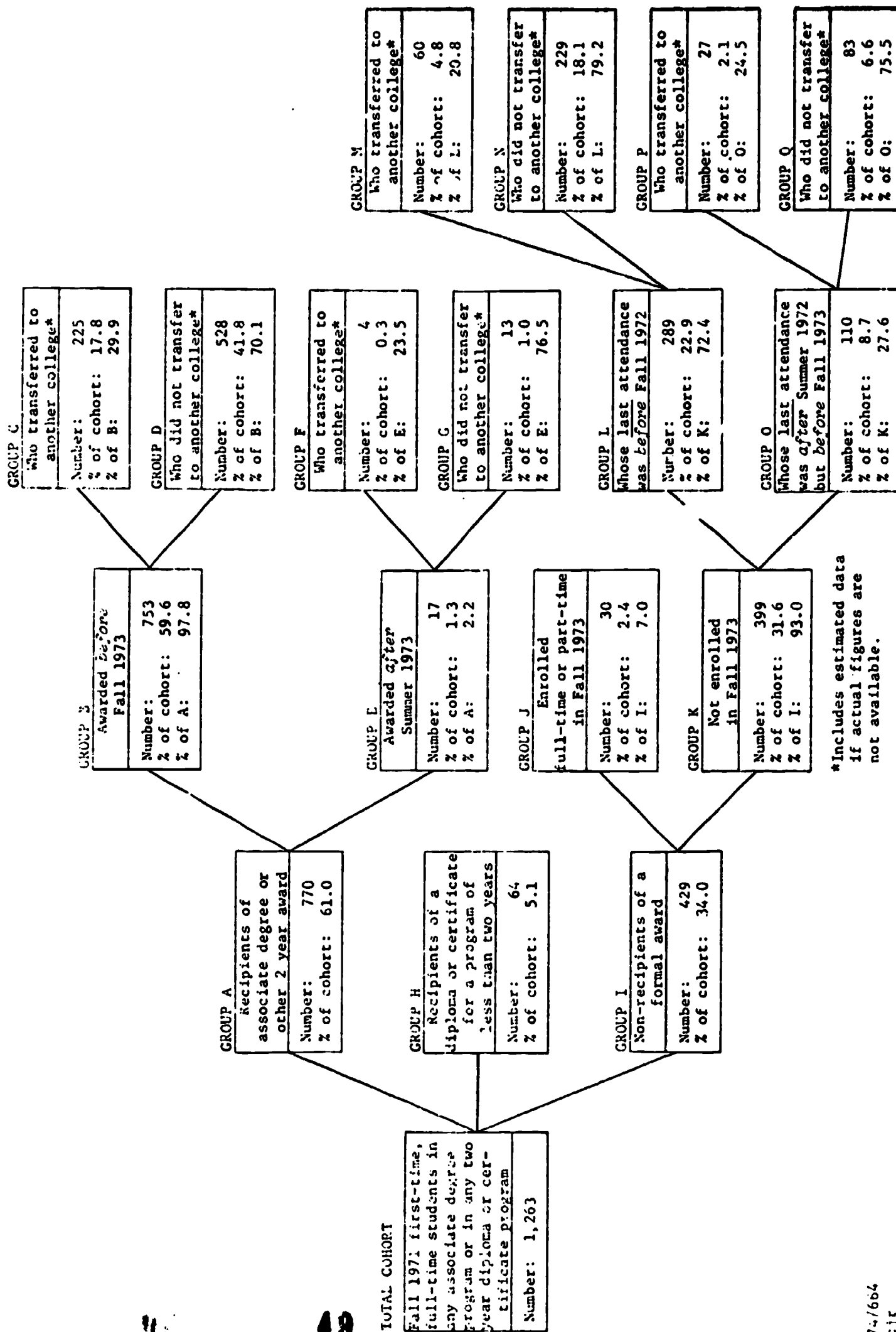
^aExcludes Agricultural and Technical College at Alfred.

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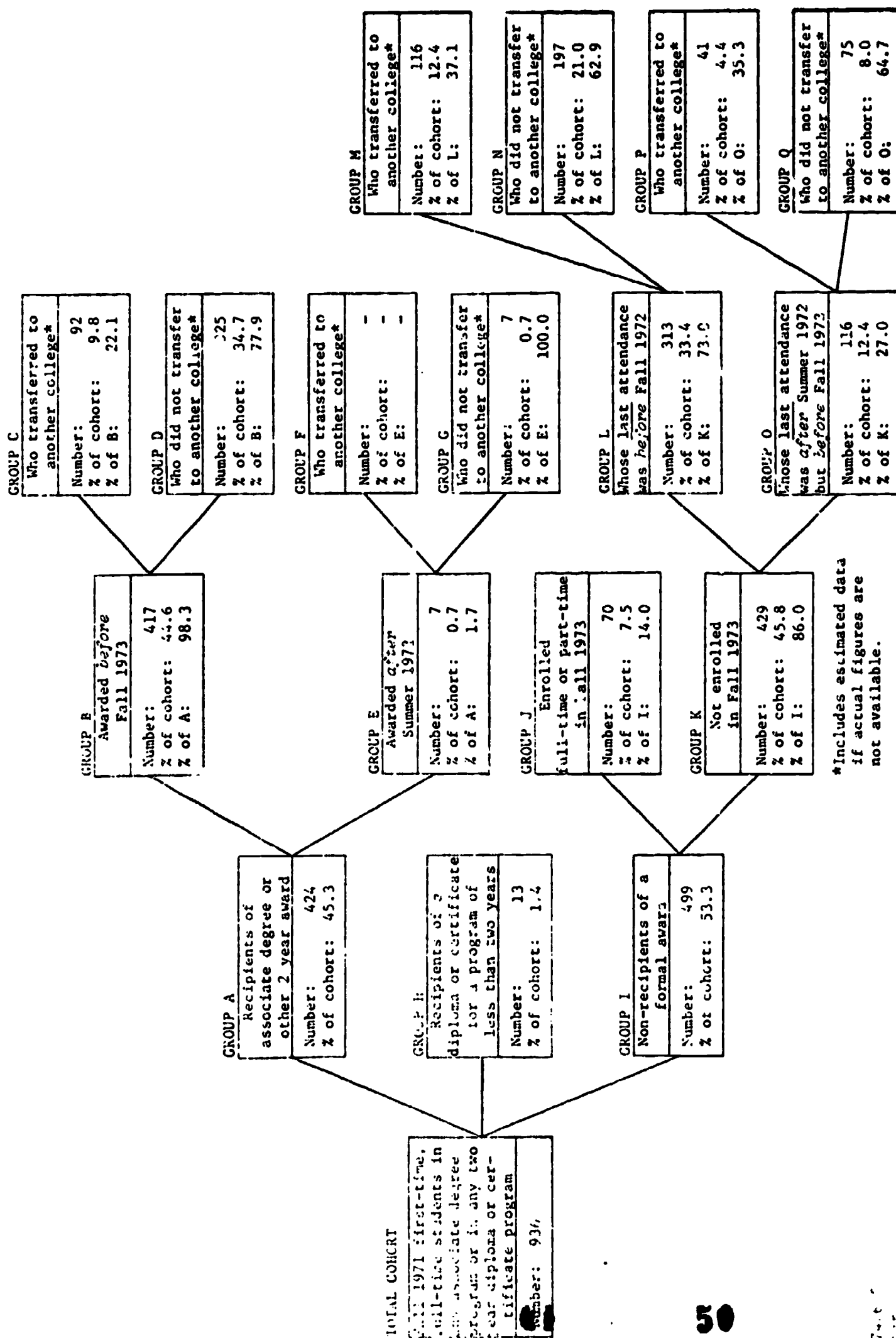
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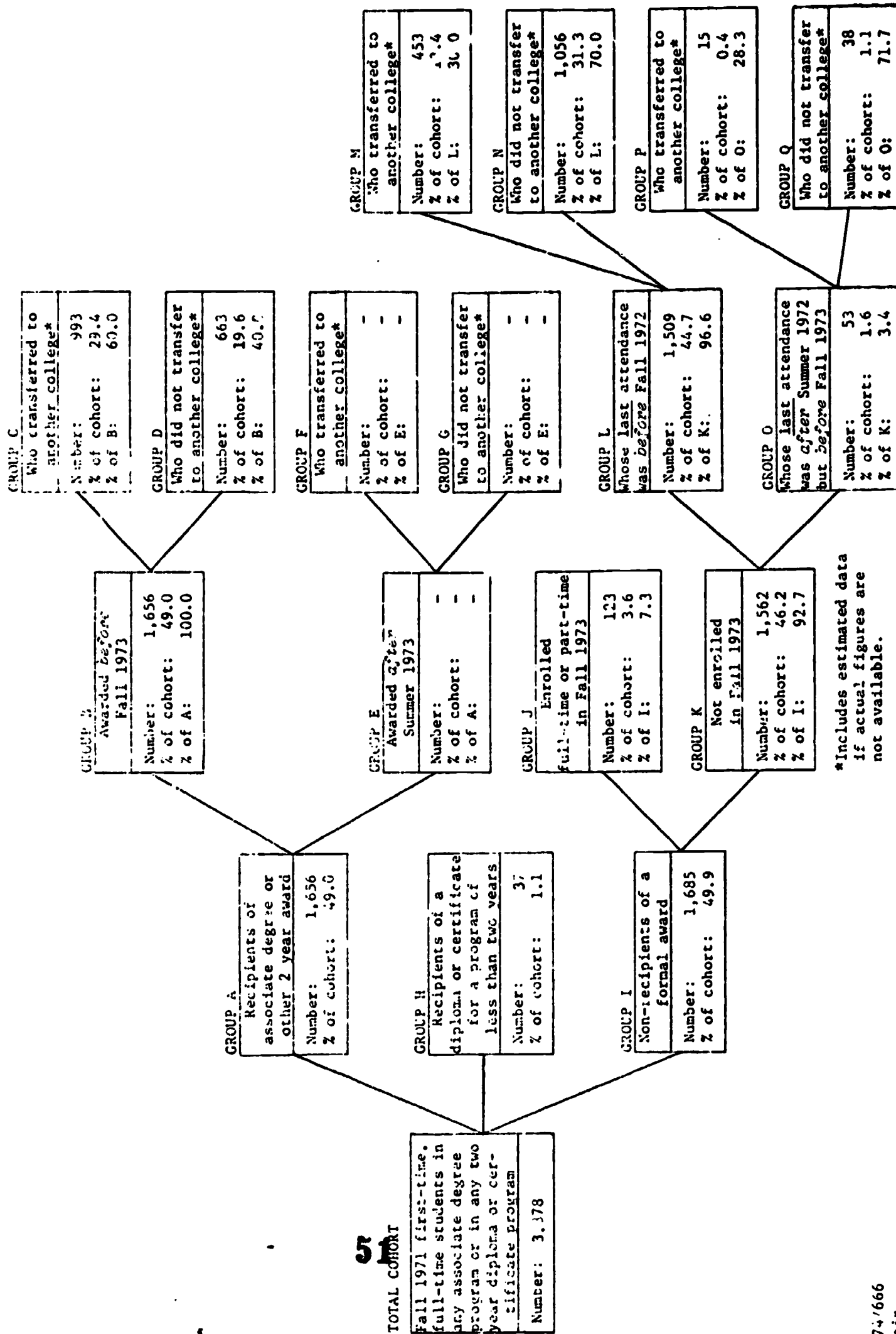
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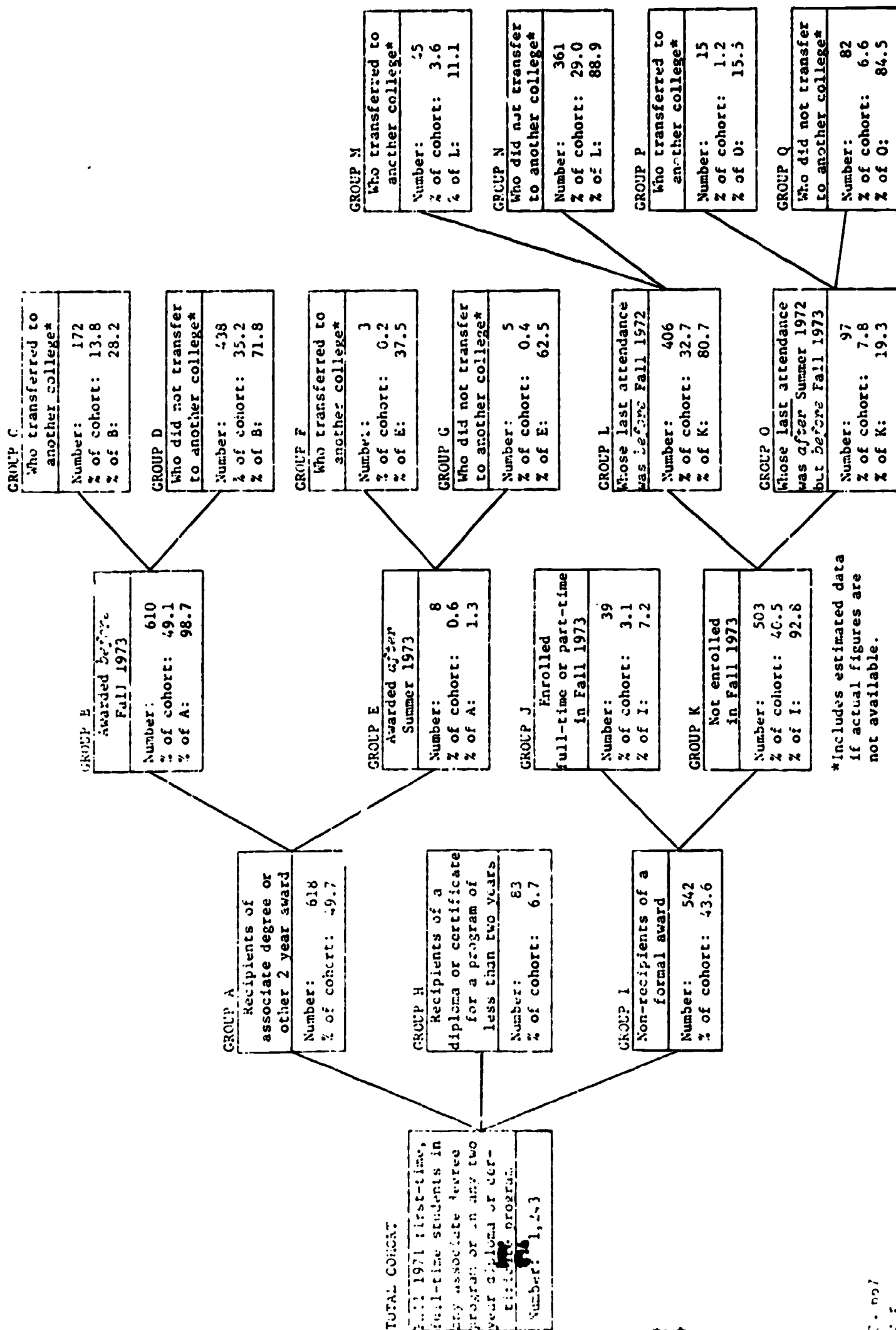
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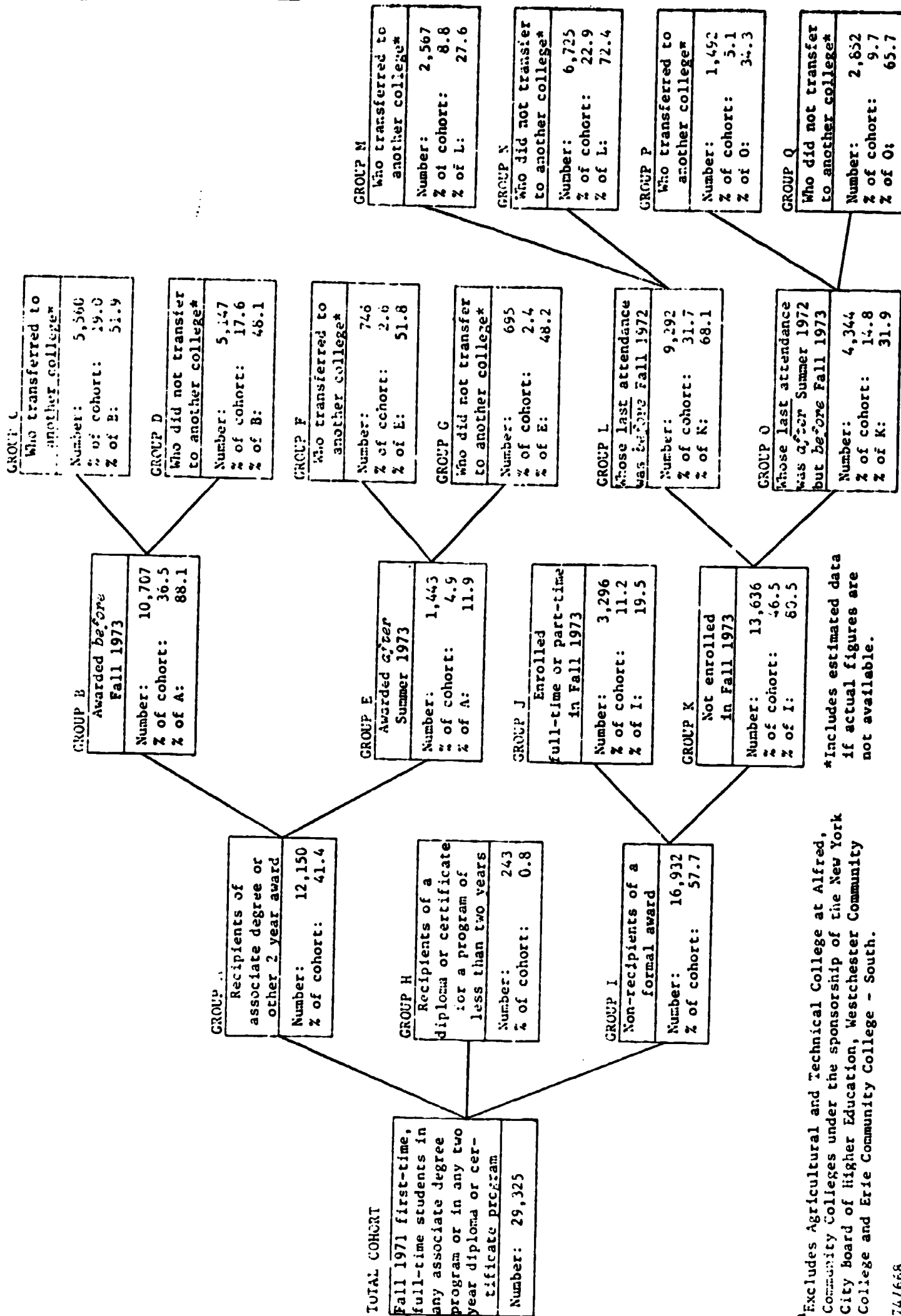
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT FARMINGDALE



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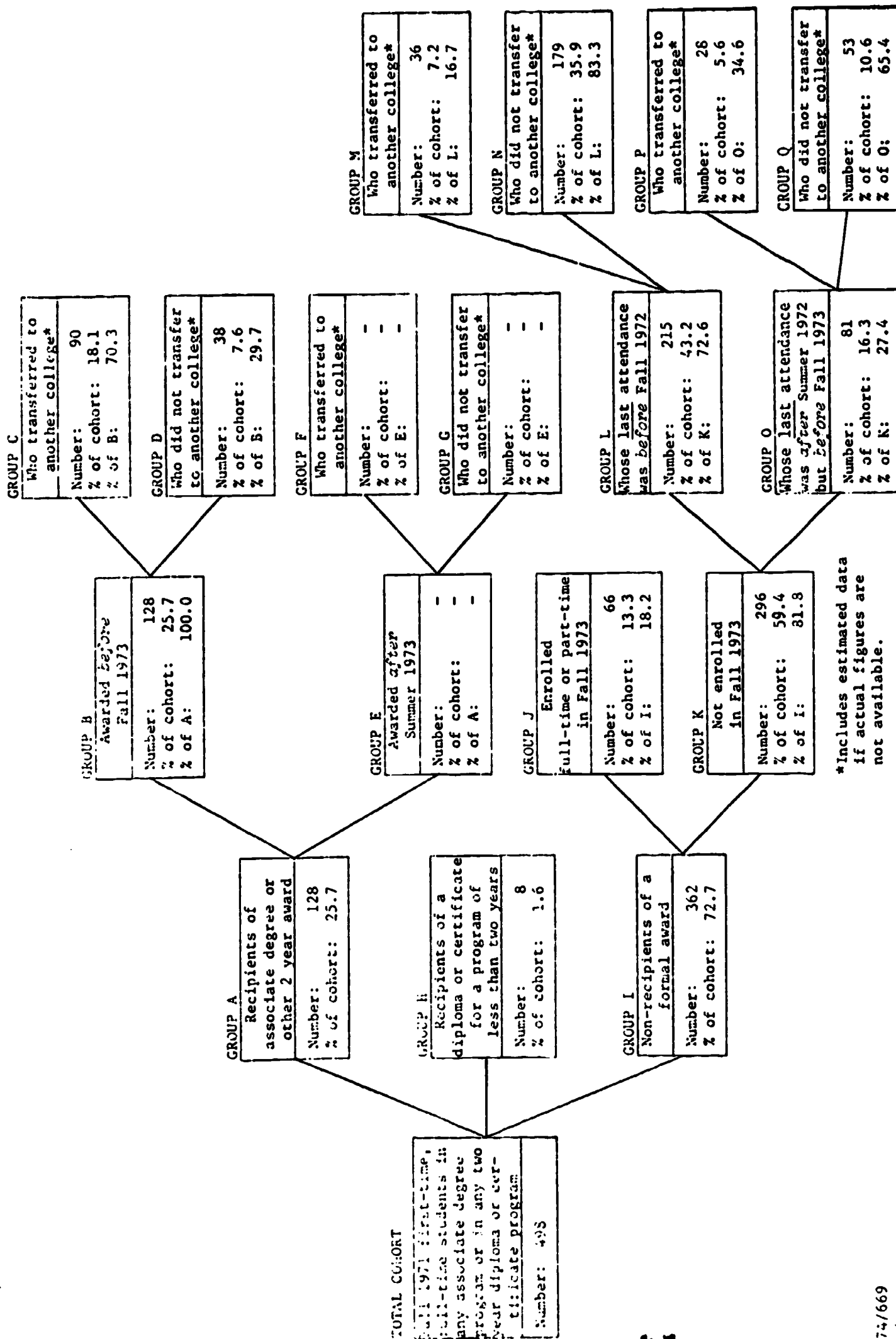


ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
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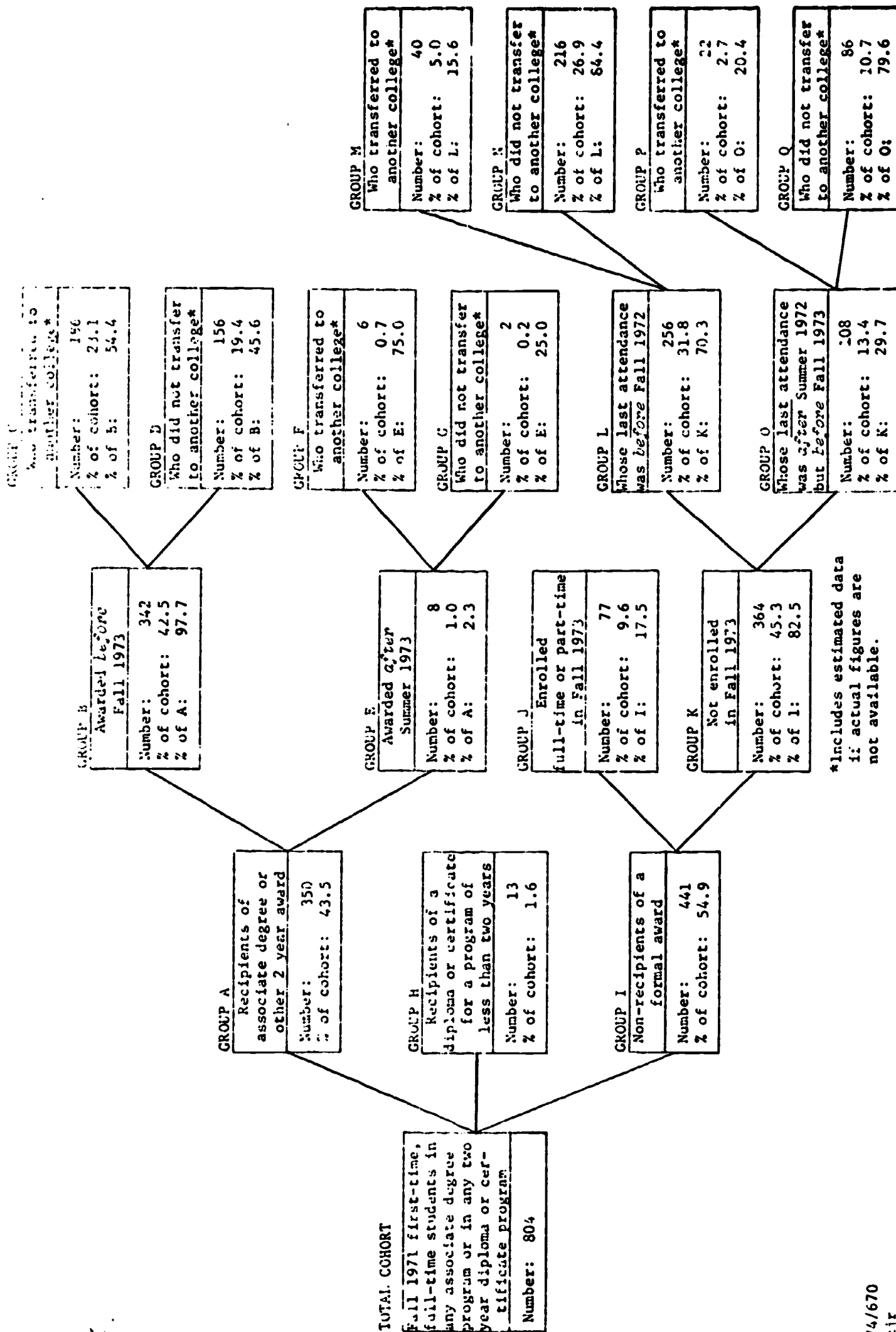


^aExcludes Agricultural and Technical College at Alfred, Community Colleges under the sponsorship of the New York City Board of Higher Education, Westchester Community College and Erie Community College - South.

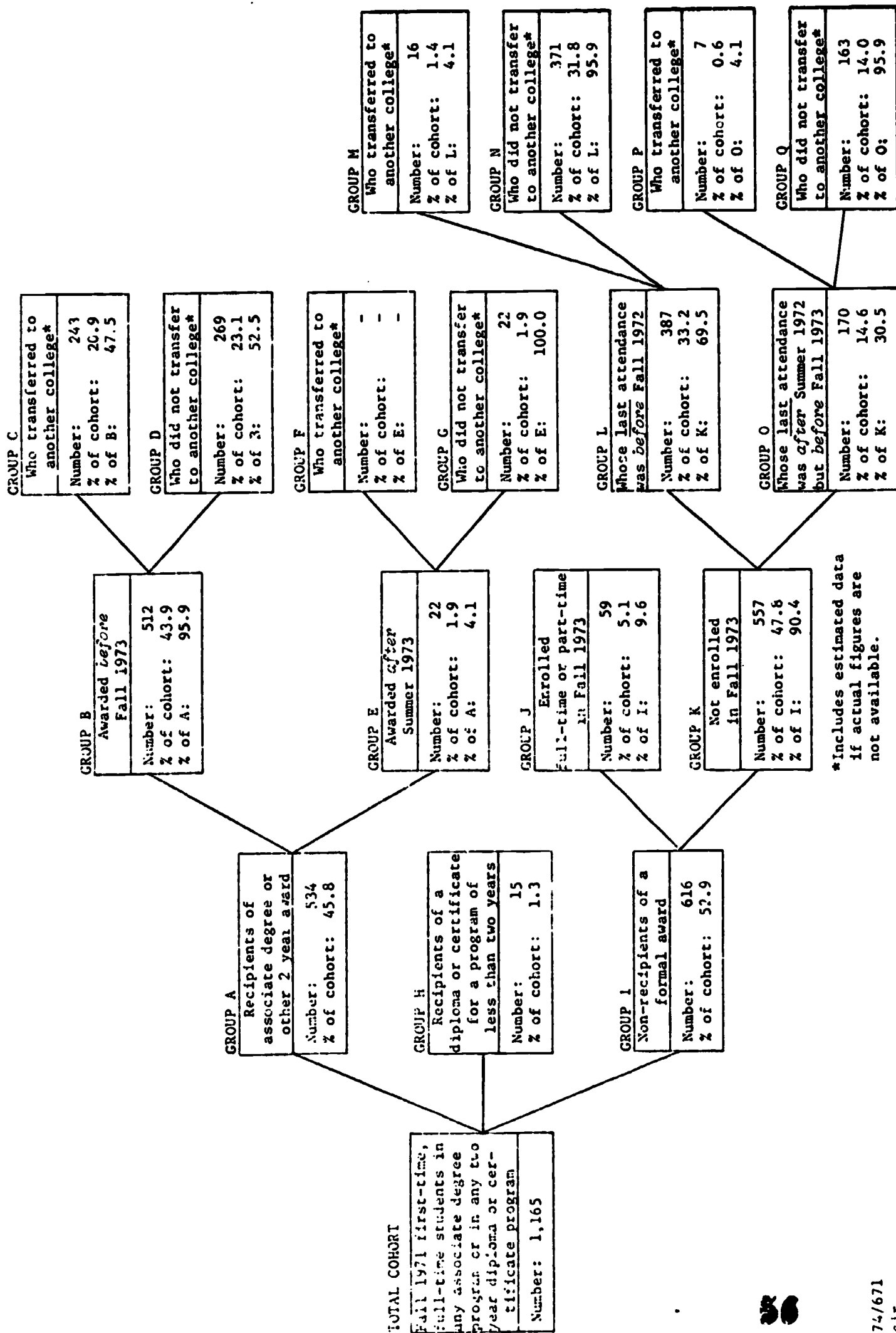
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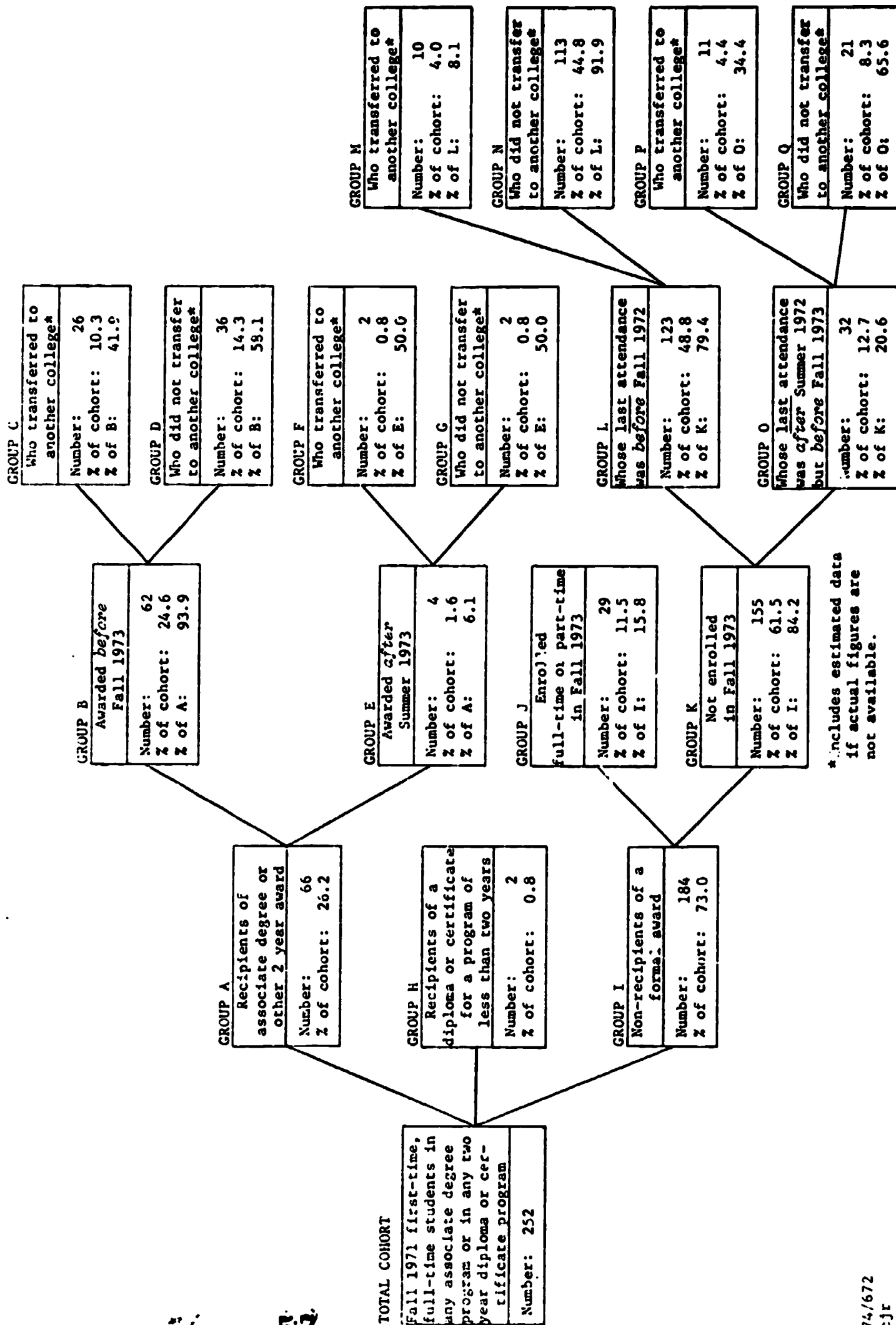
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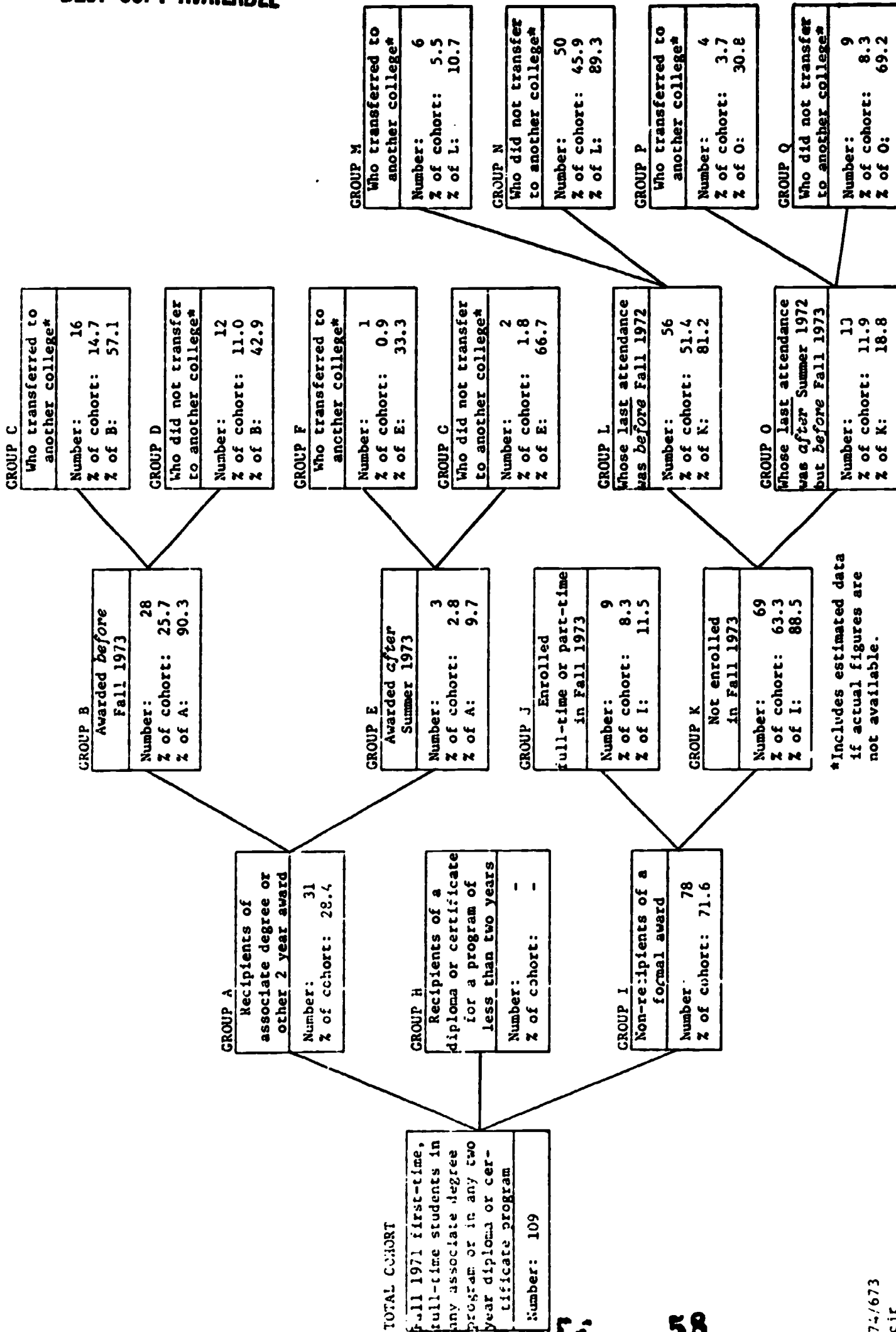
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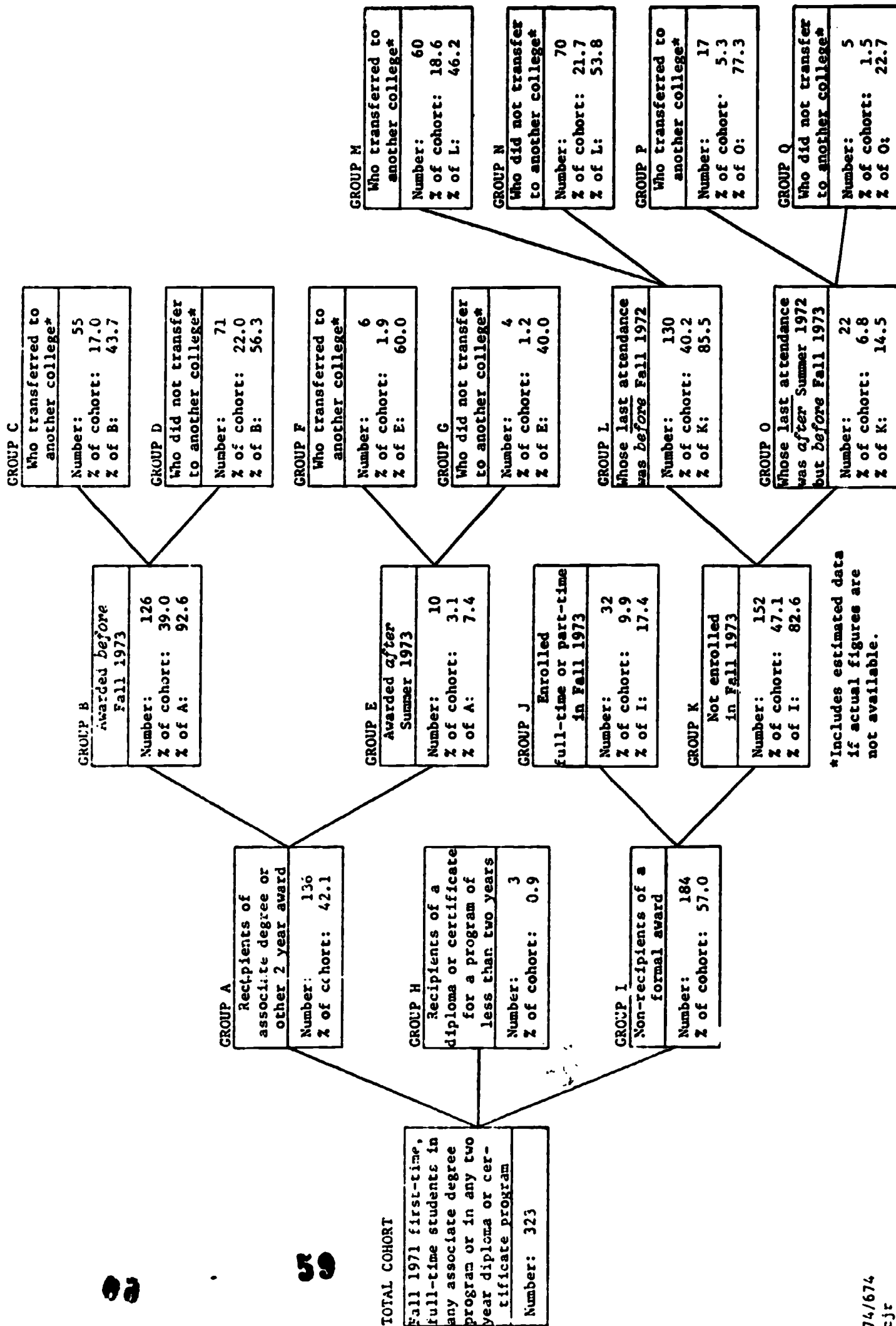
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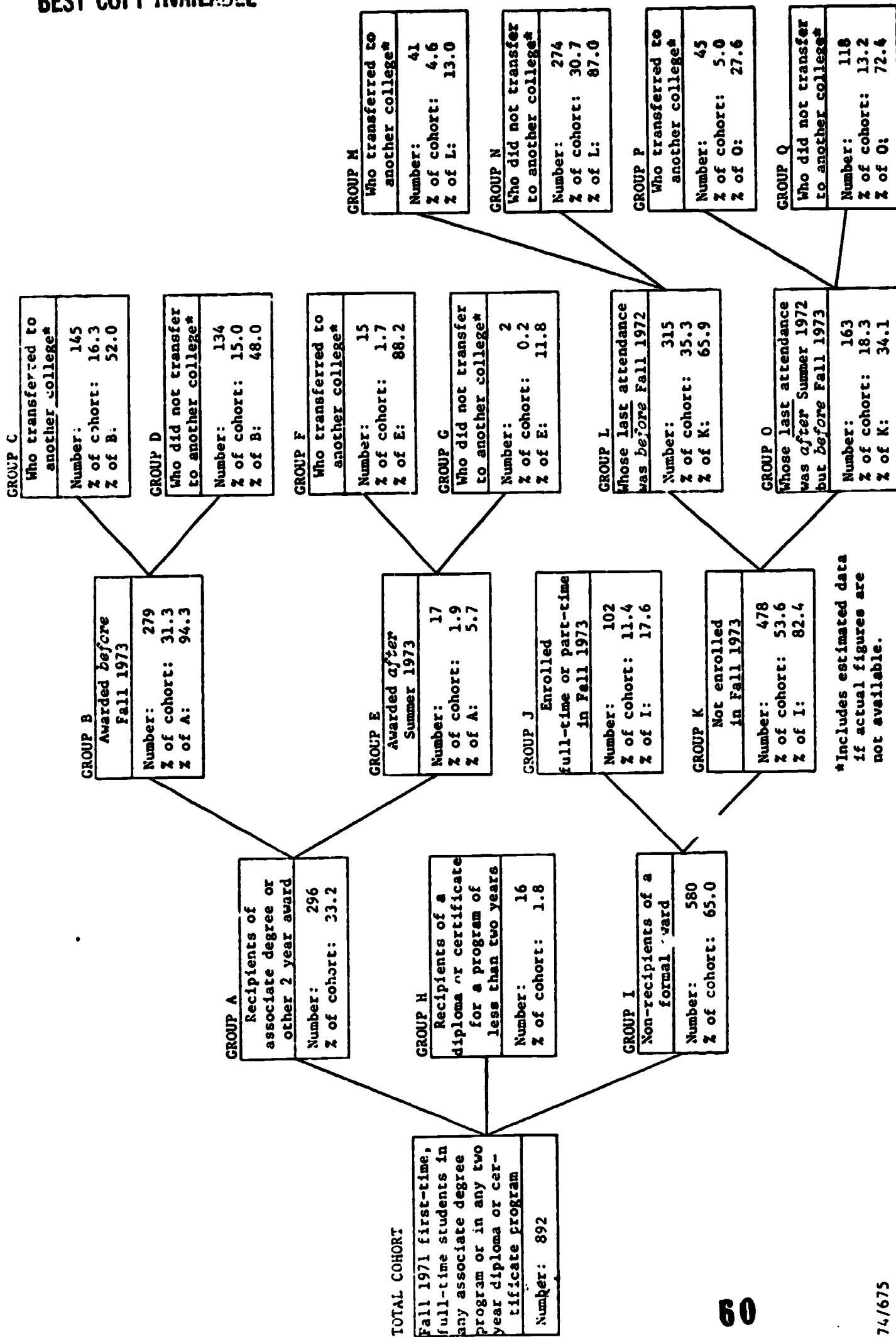
ATTENTION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



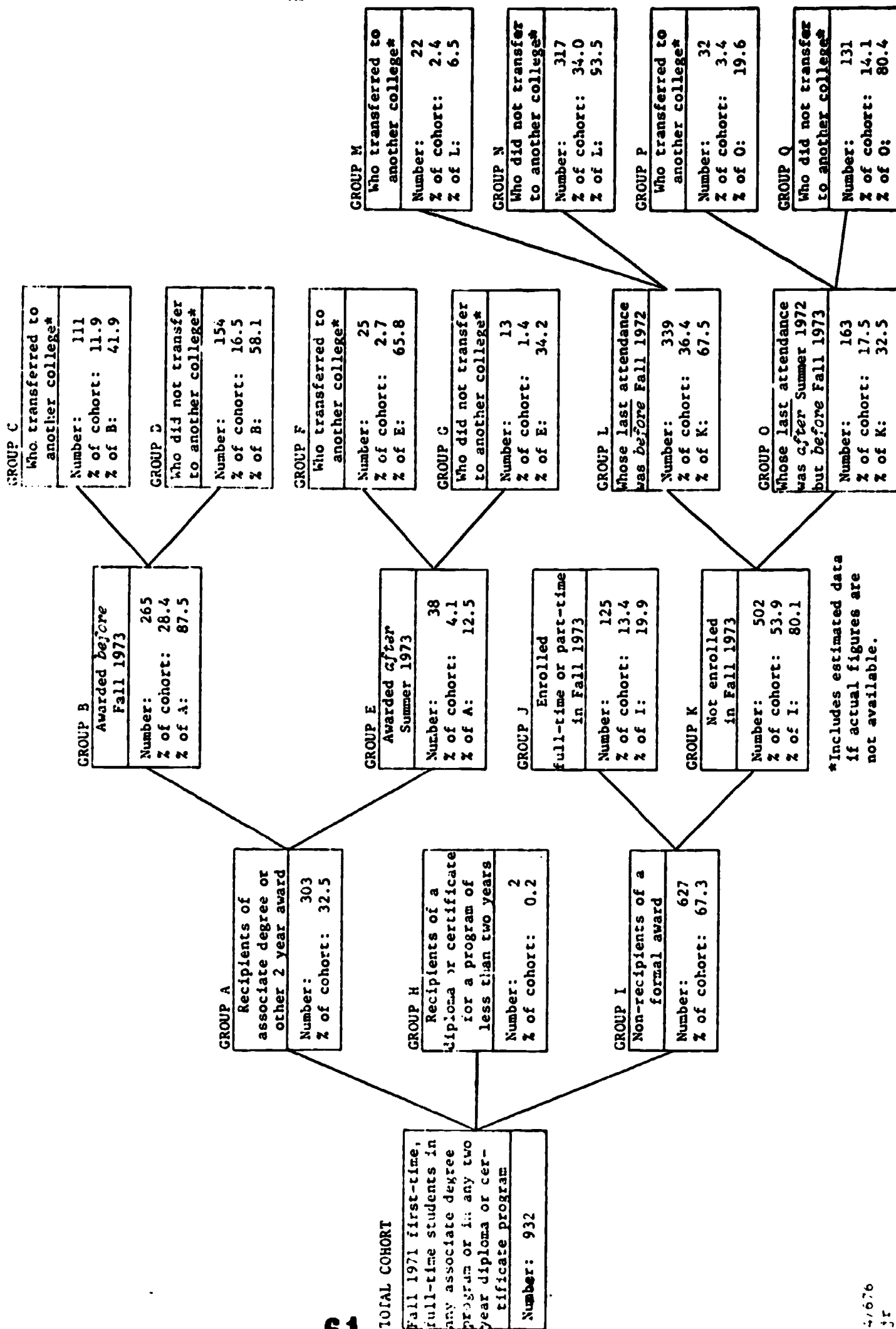
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COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE FINGER LAKES



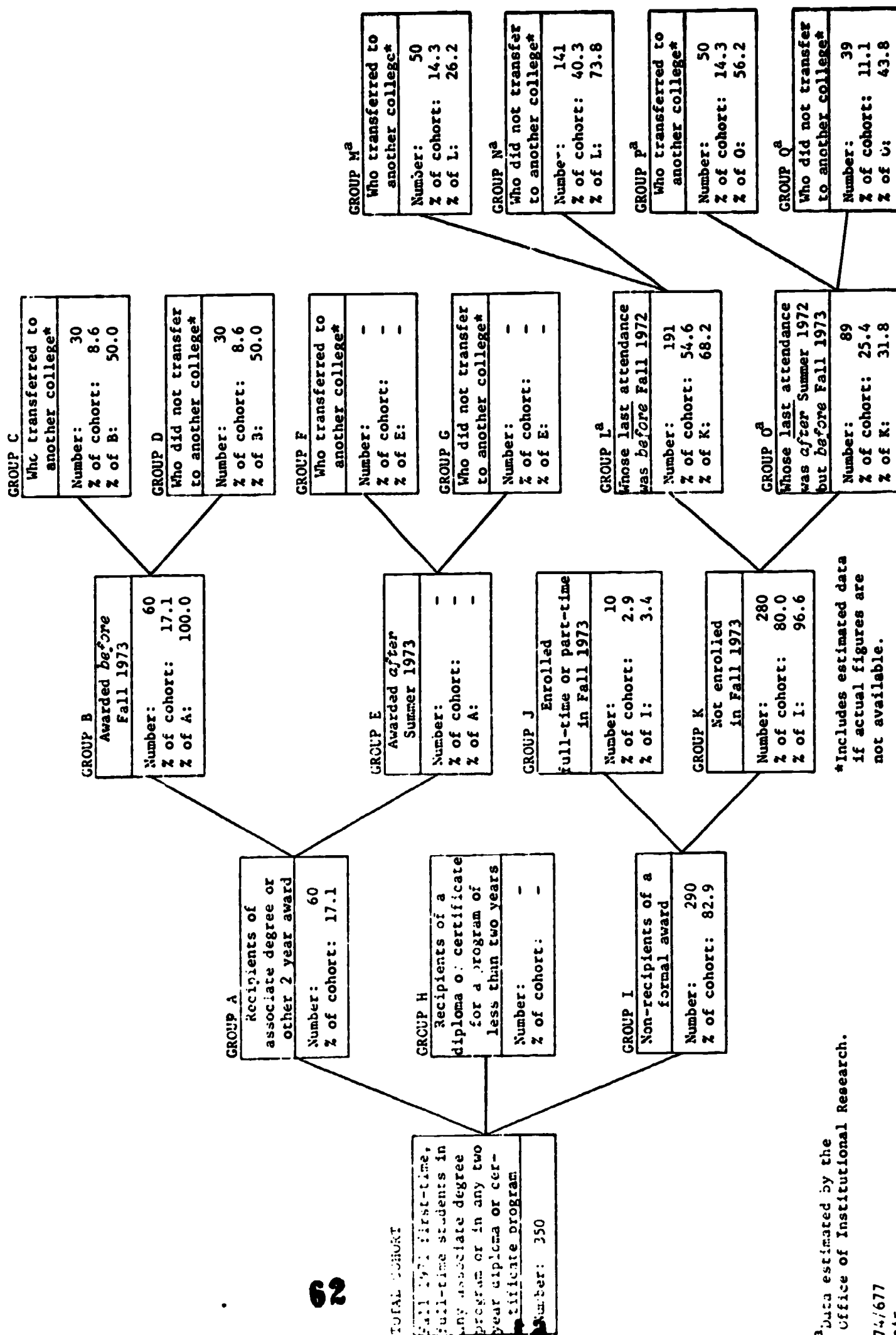
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CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE



ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



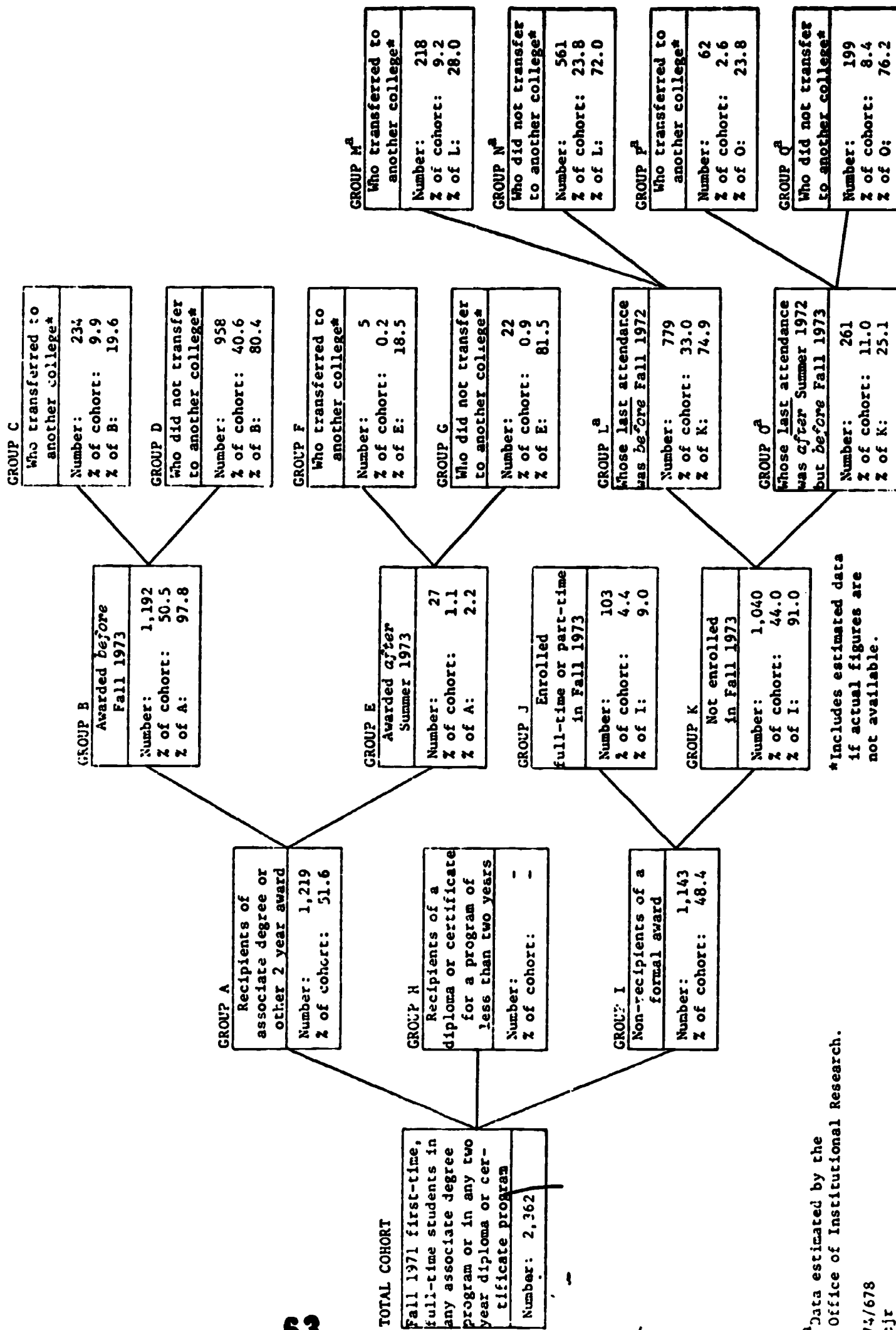
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
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^aData estimated by the
Office of Institutional Research.

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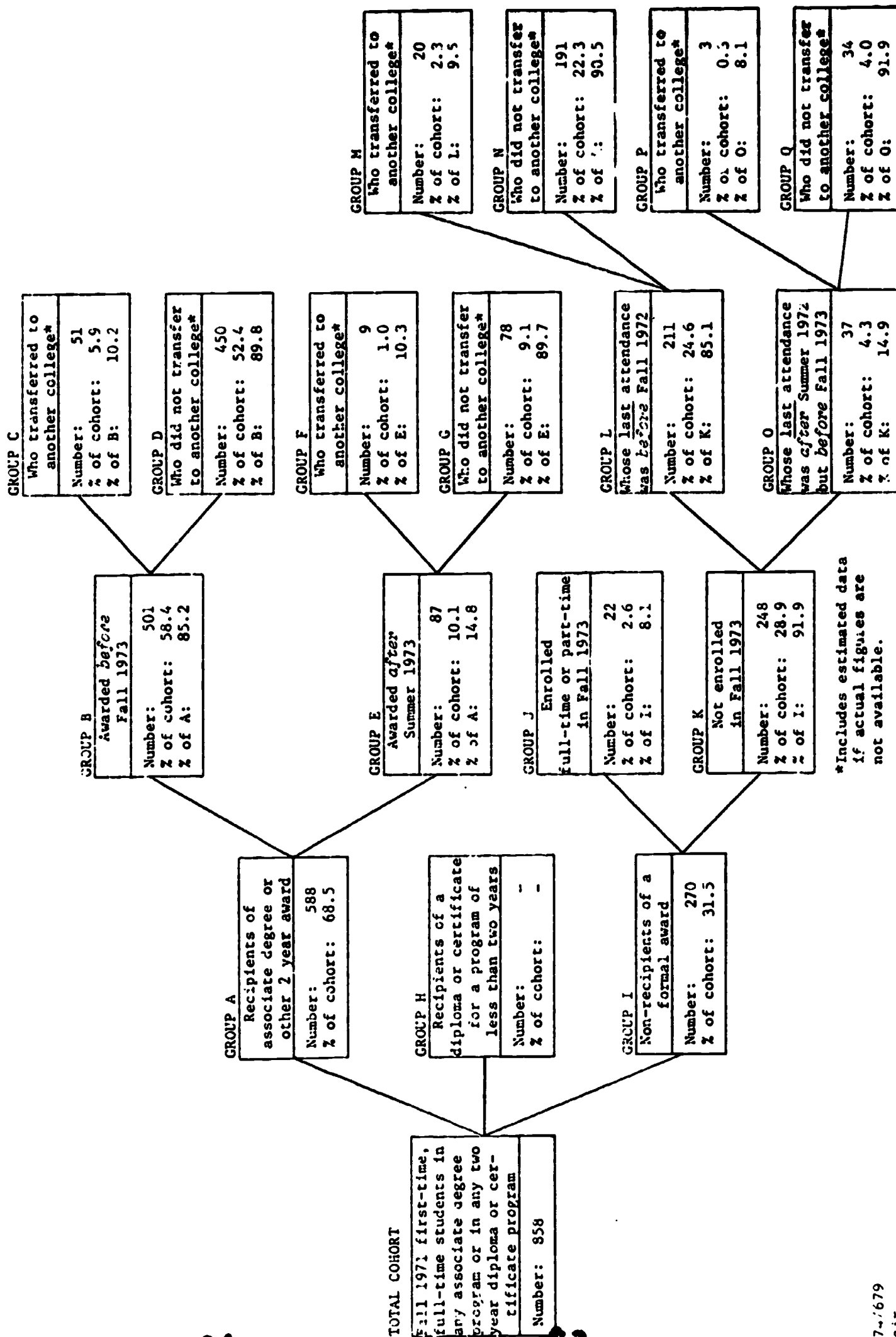
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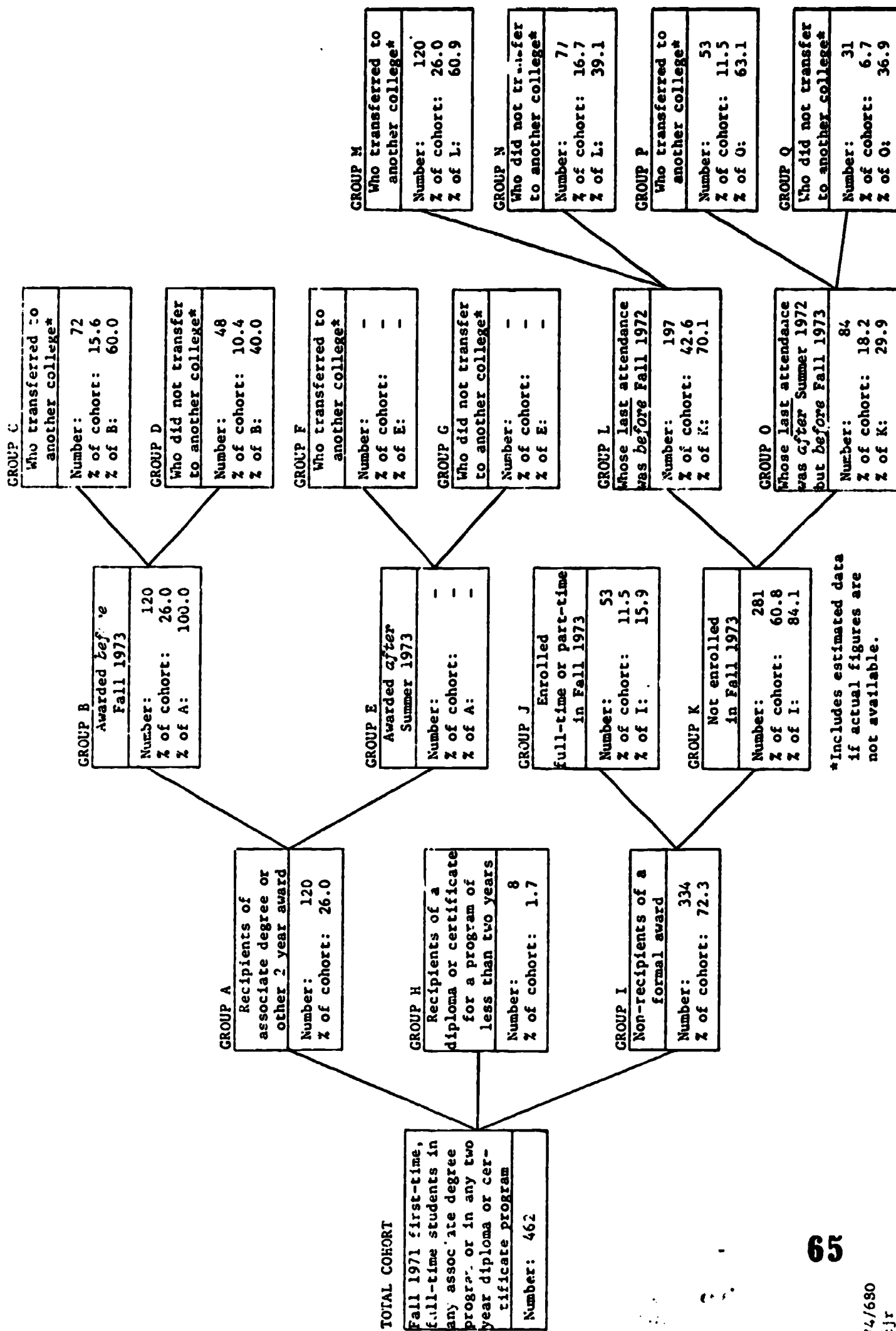
^aData estimated by the
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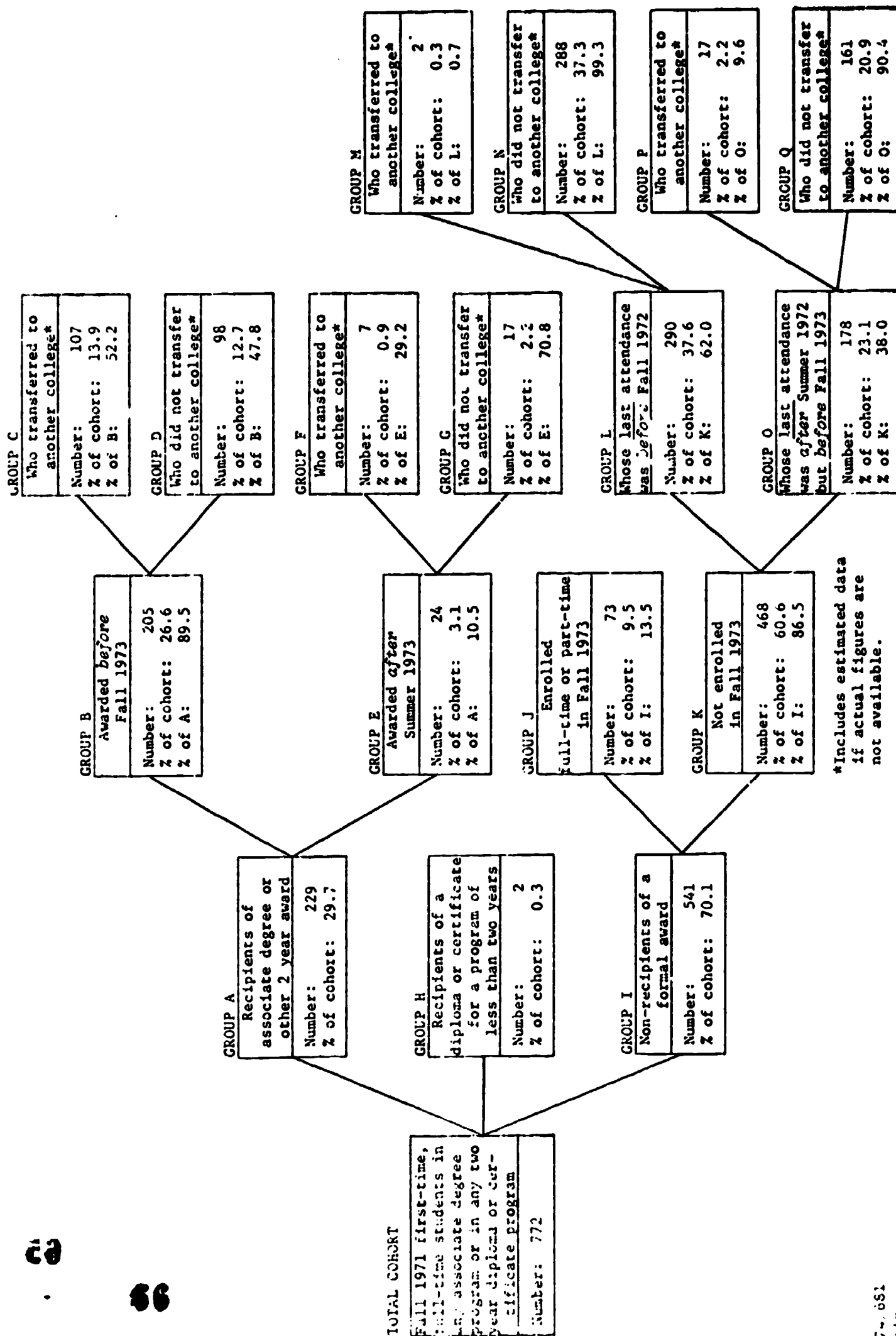
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
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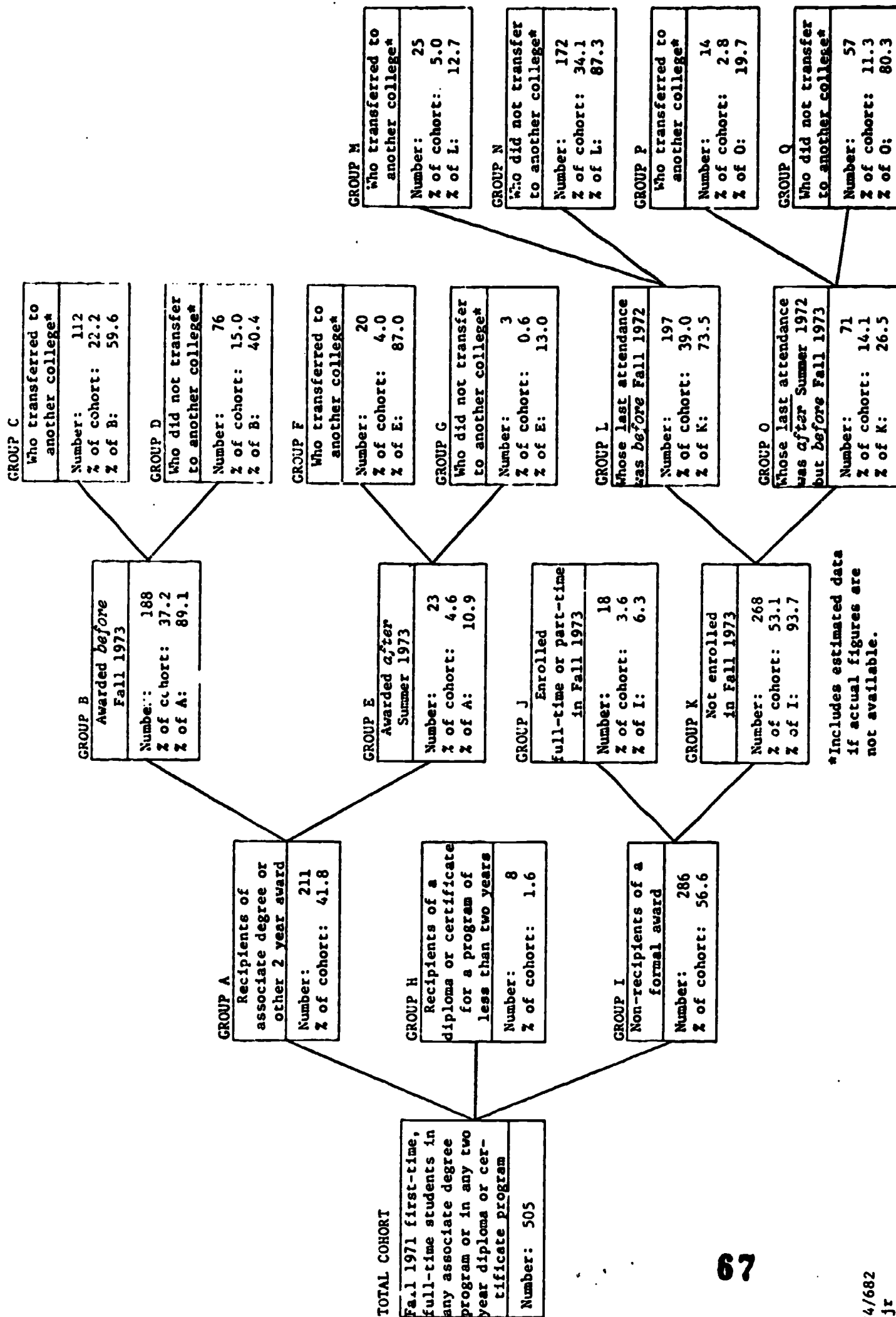
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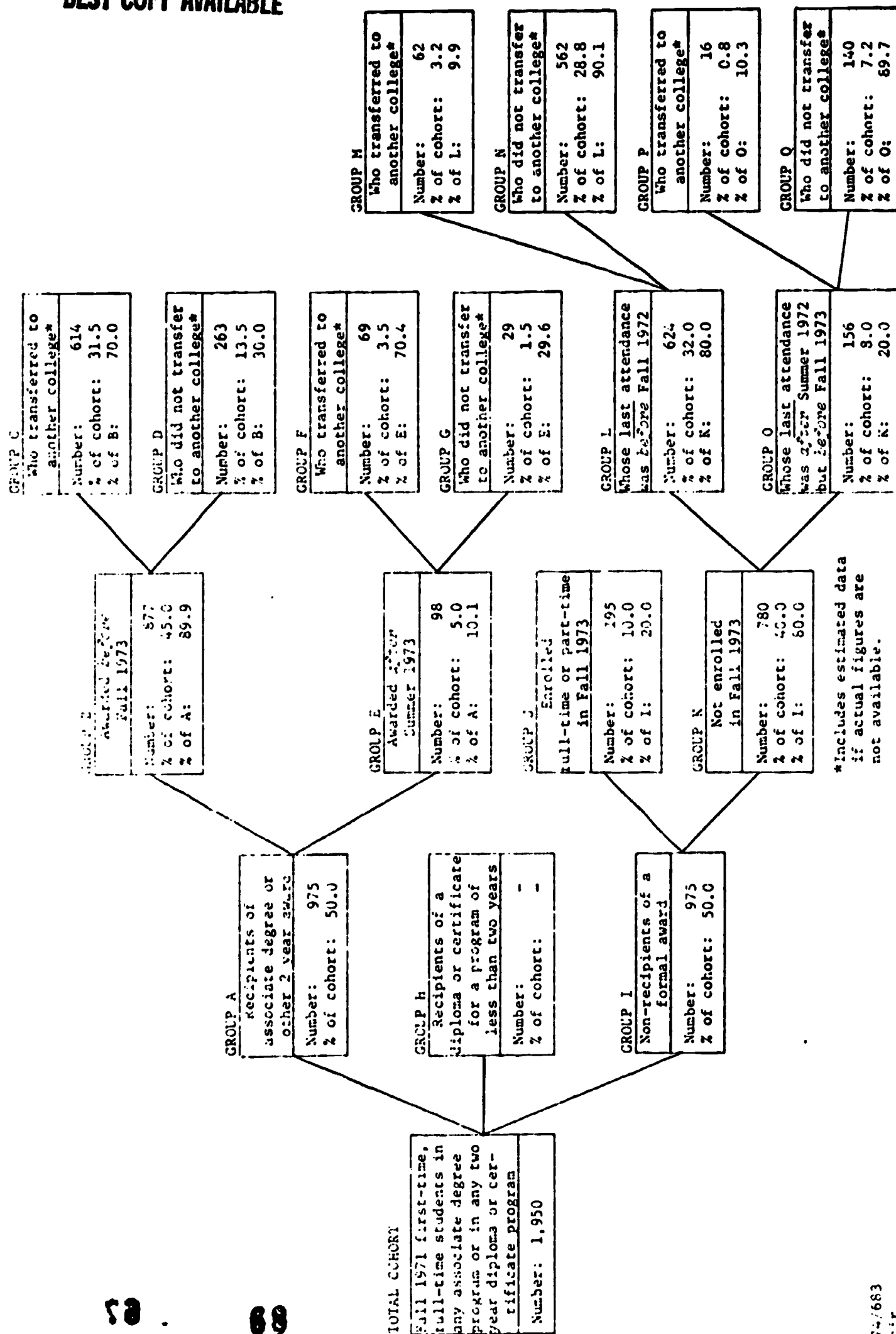
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
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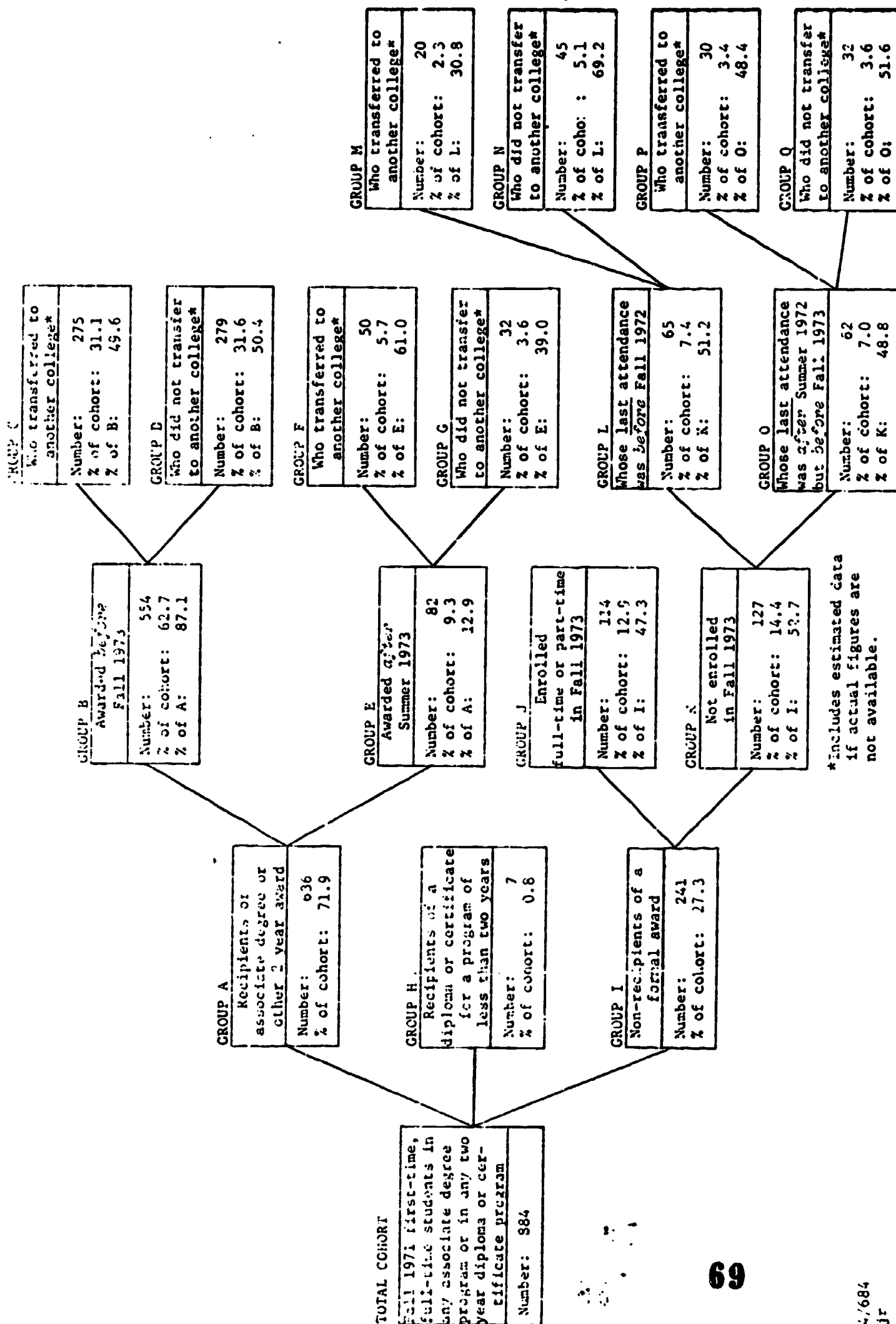
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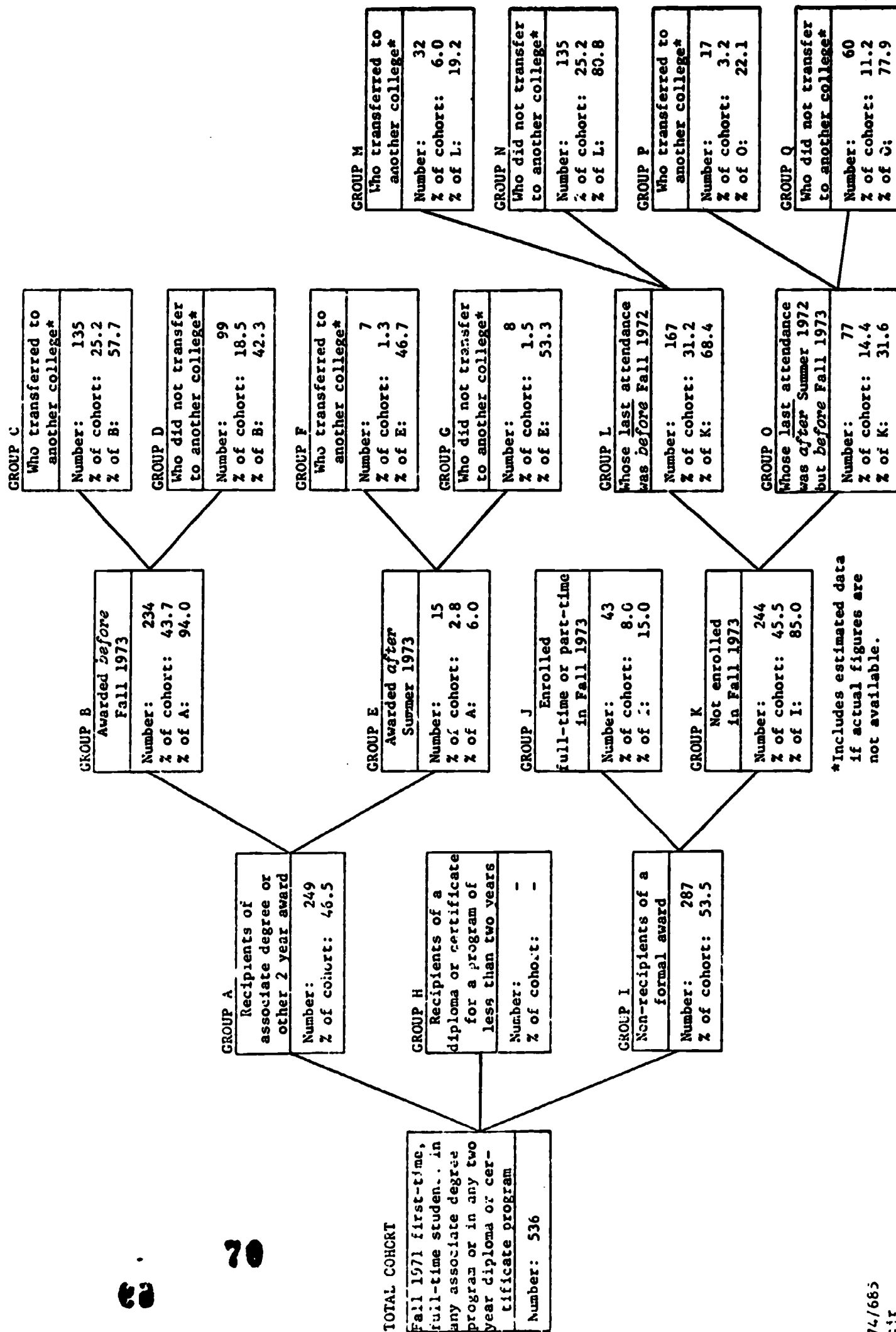
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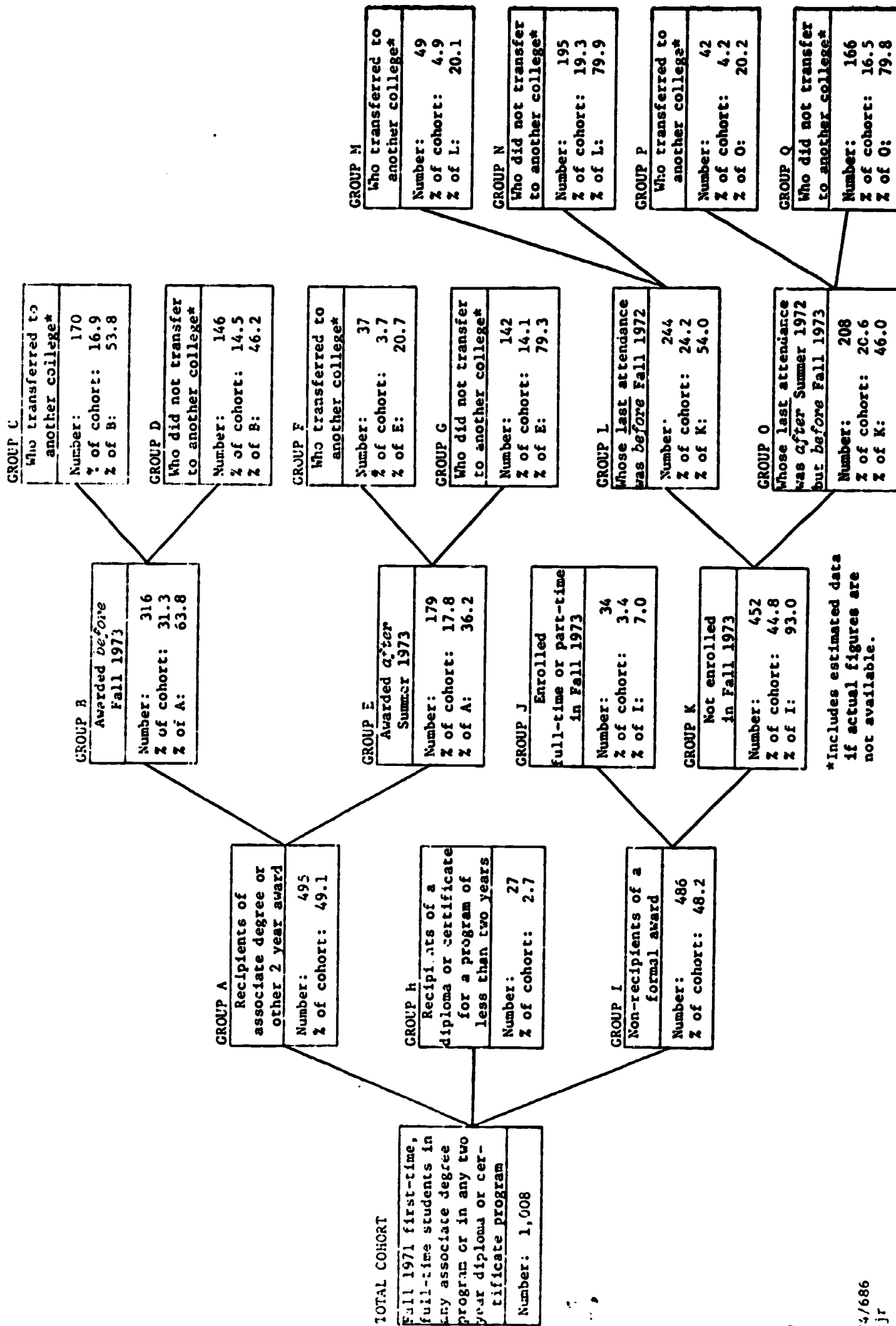
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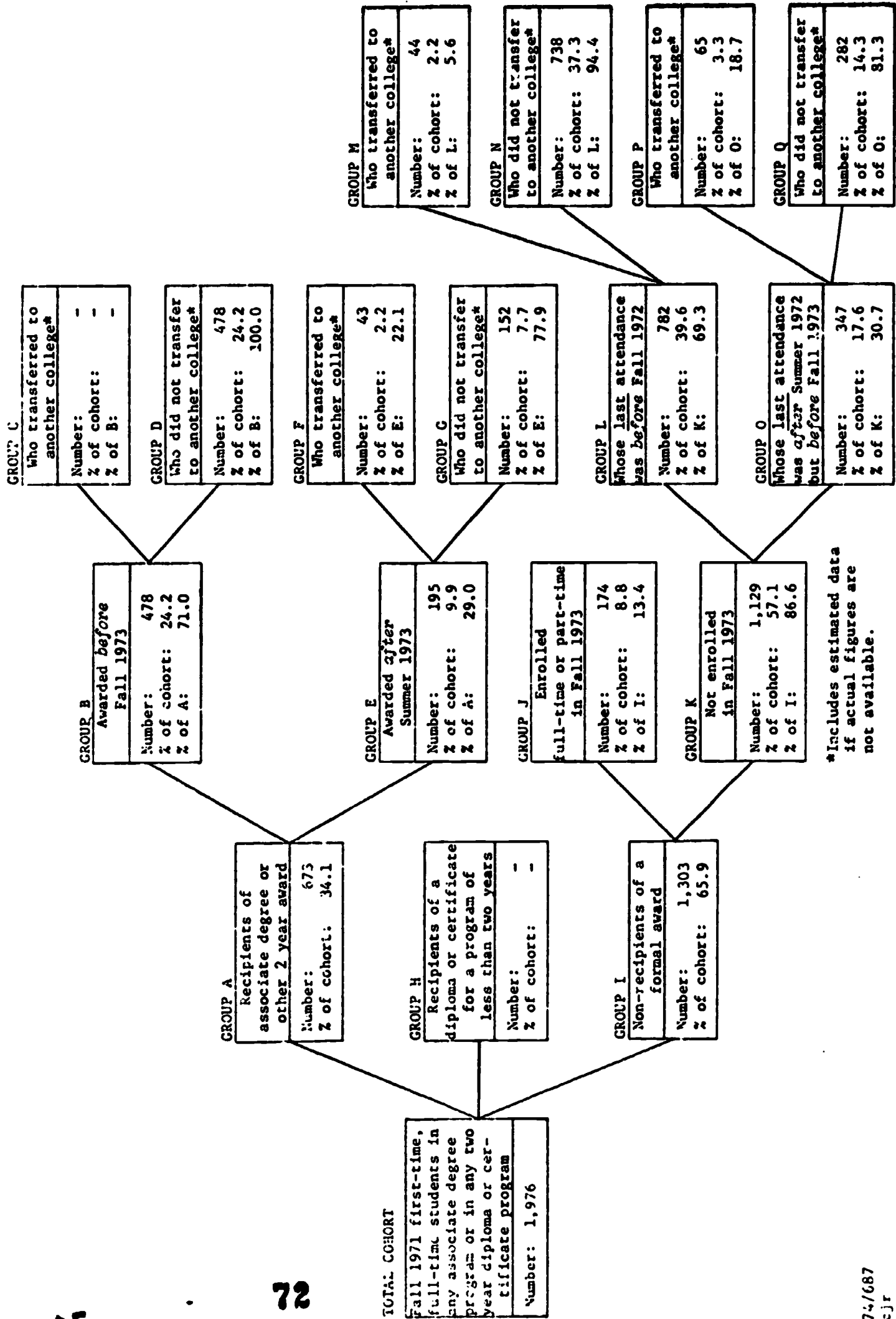
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JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE



ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
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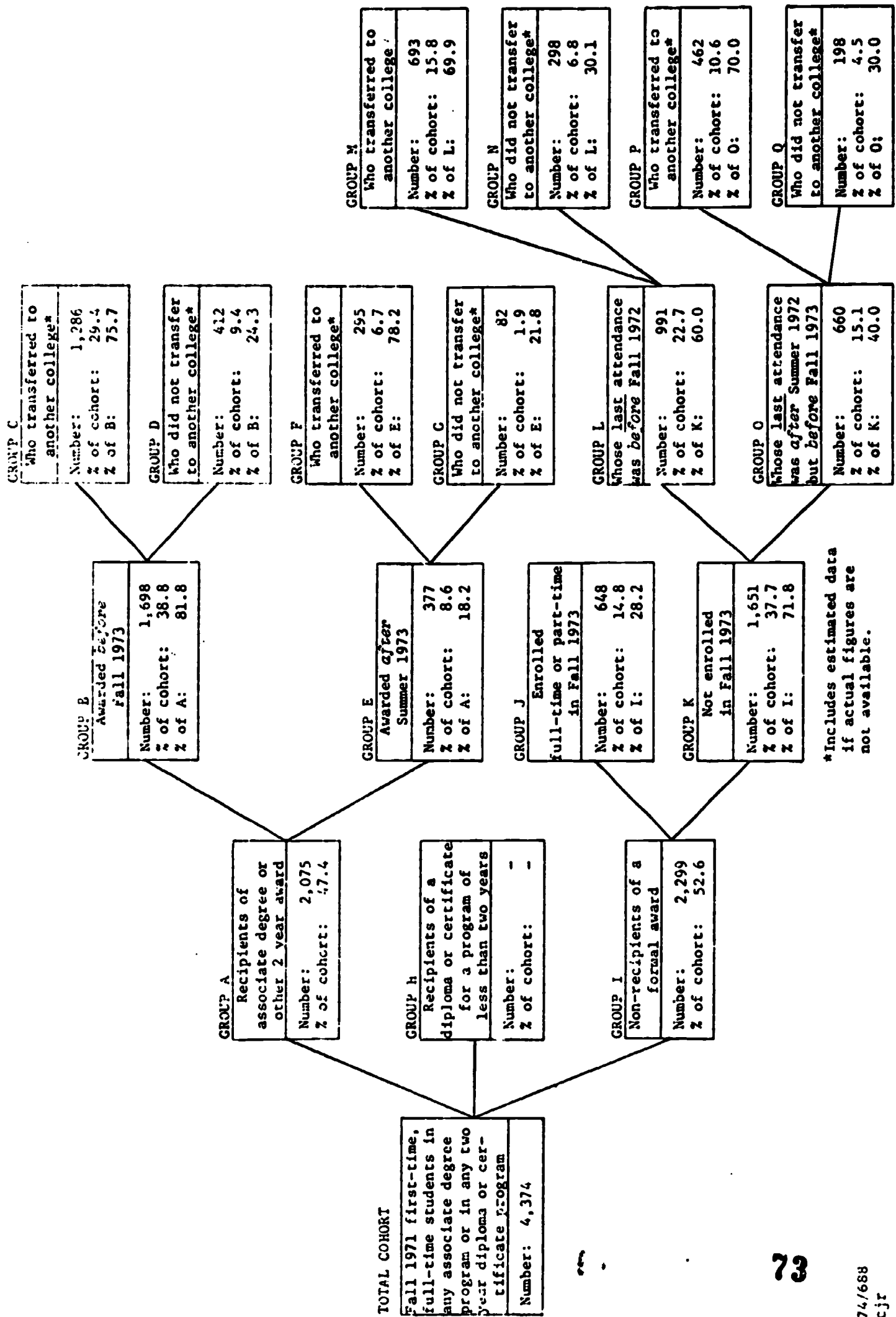


ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

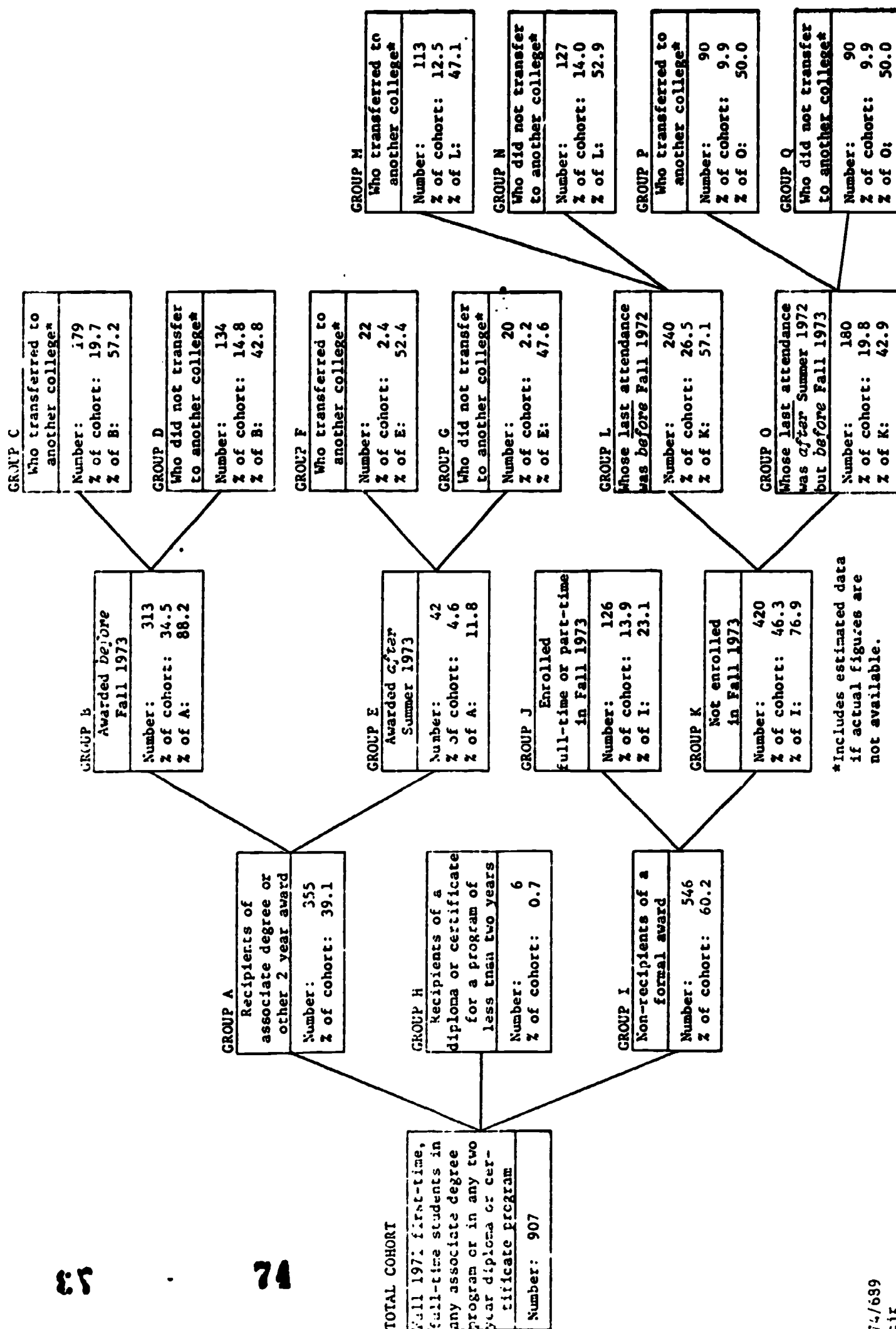


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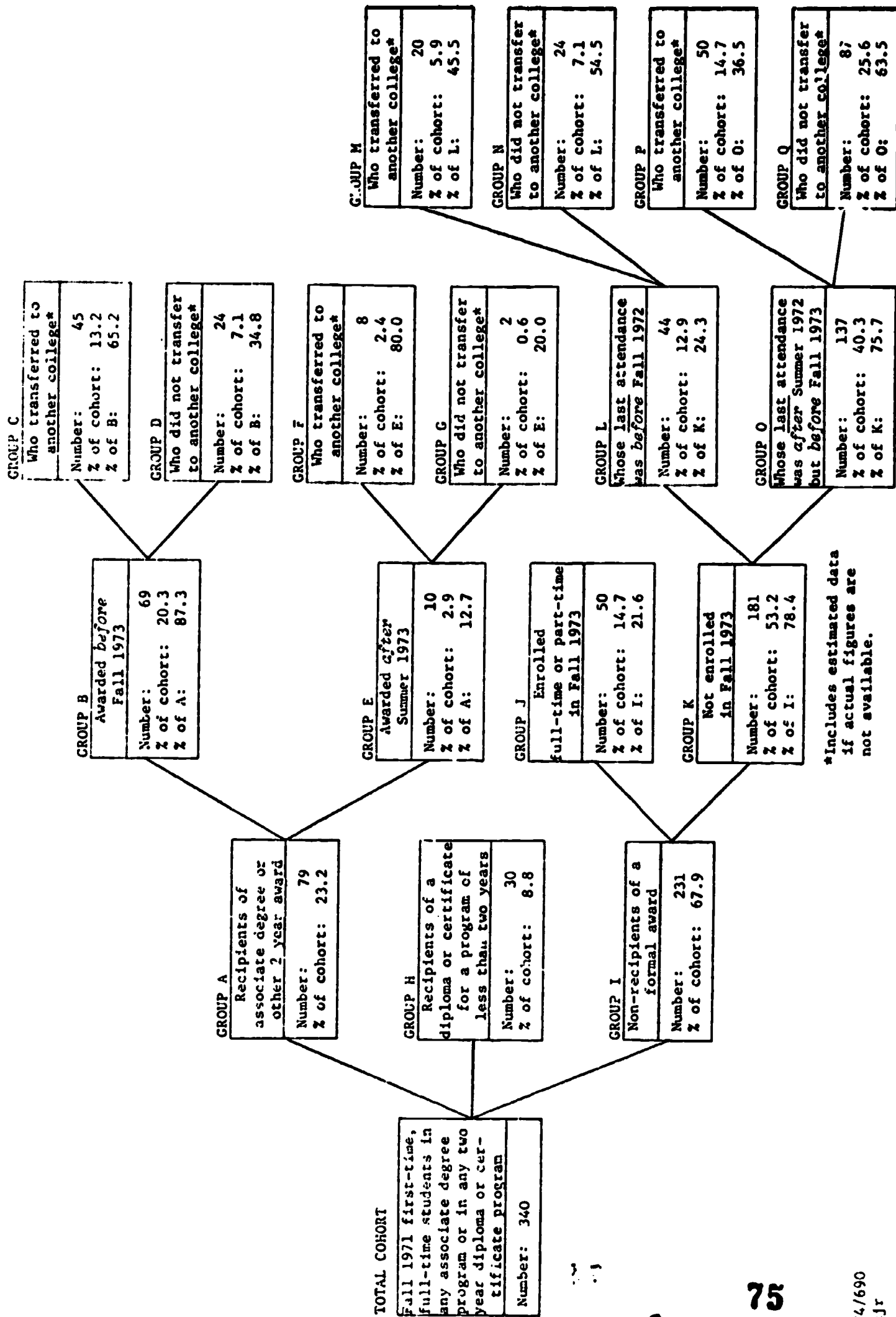
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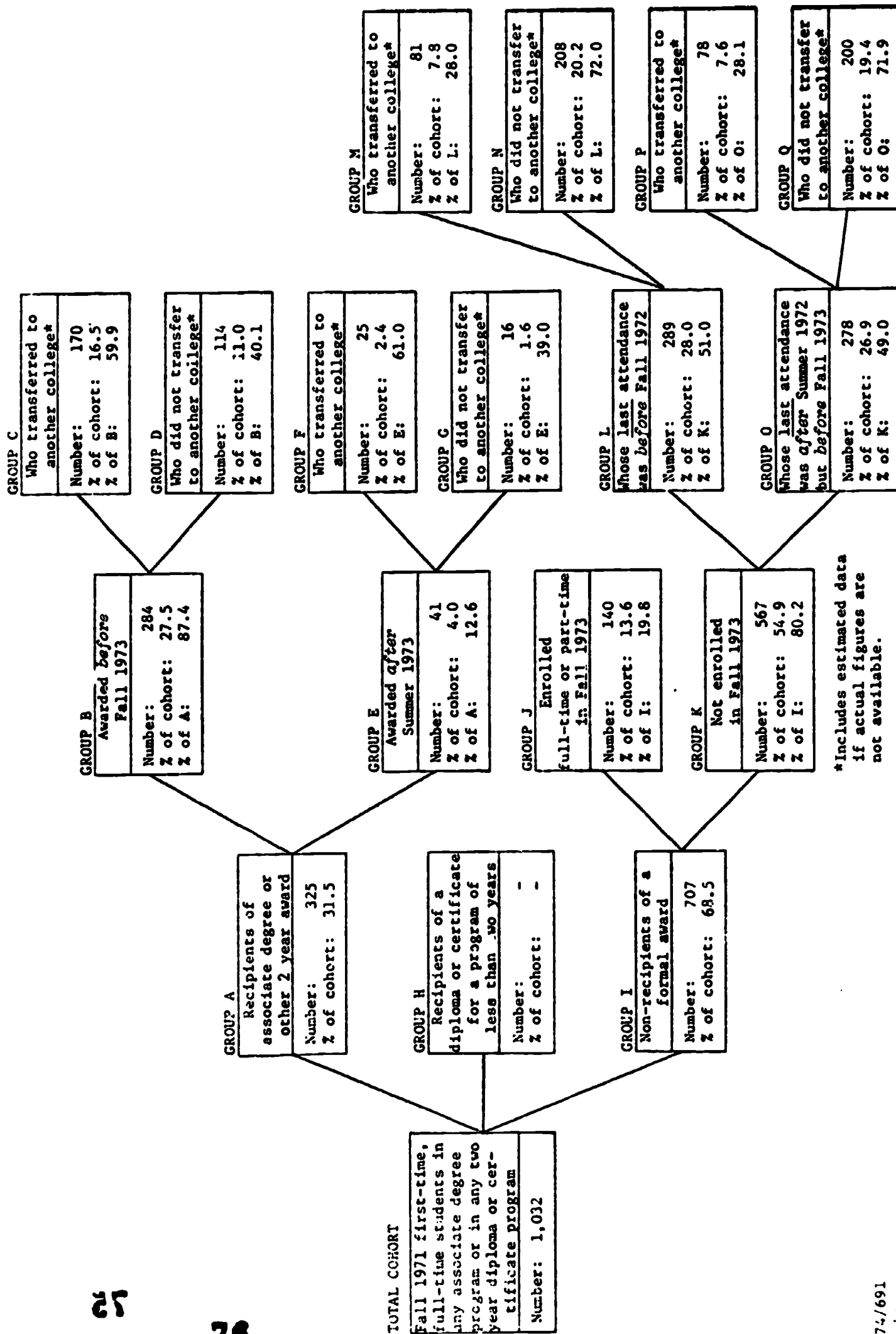
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ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
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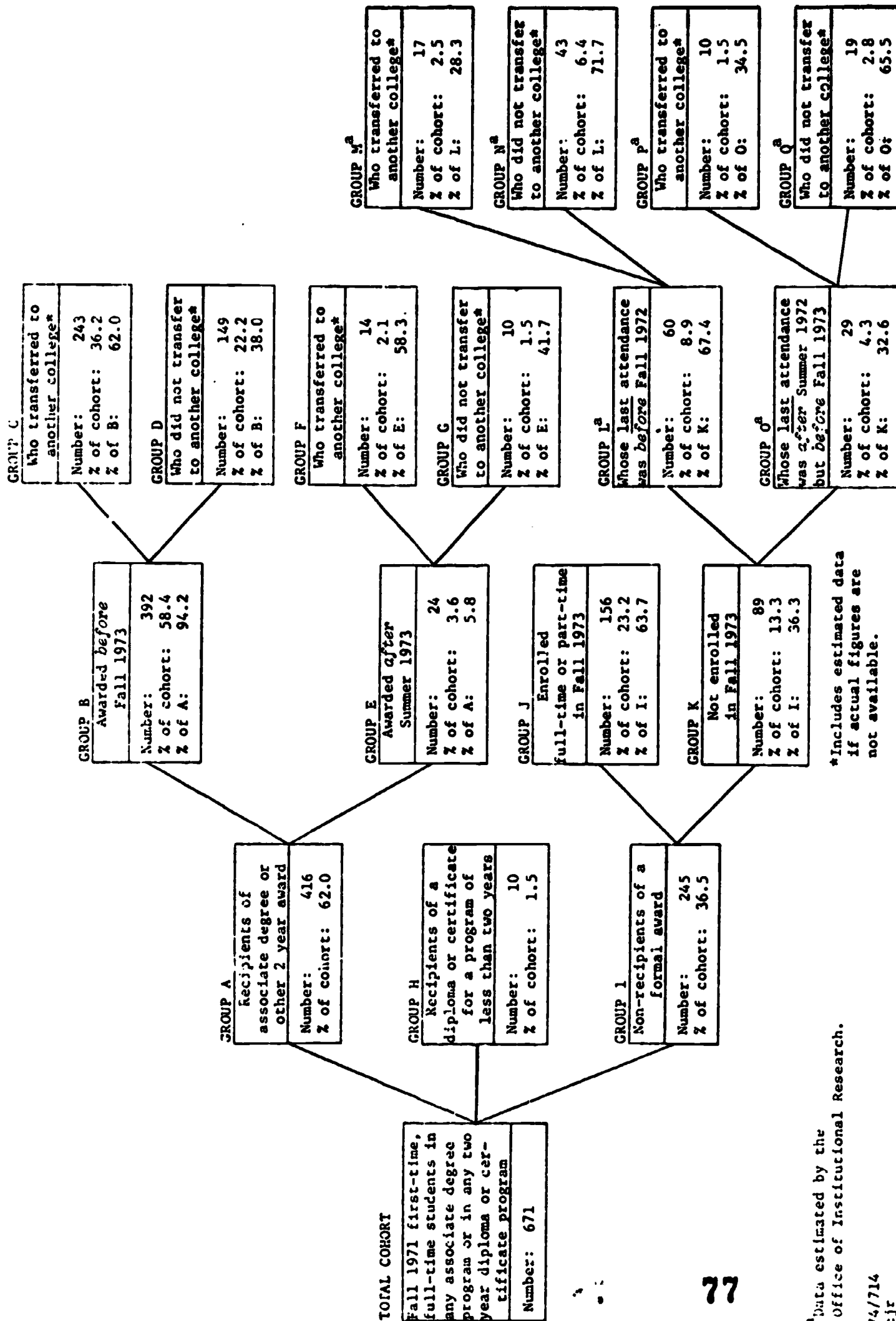


ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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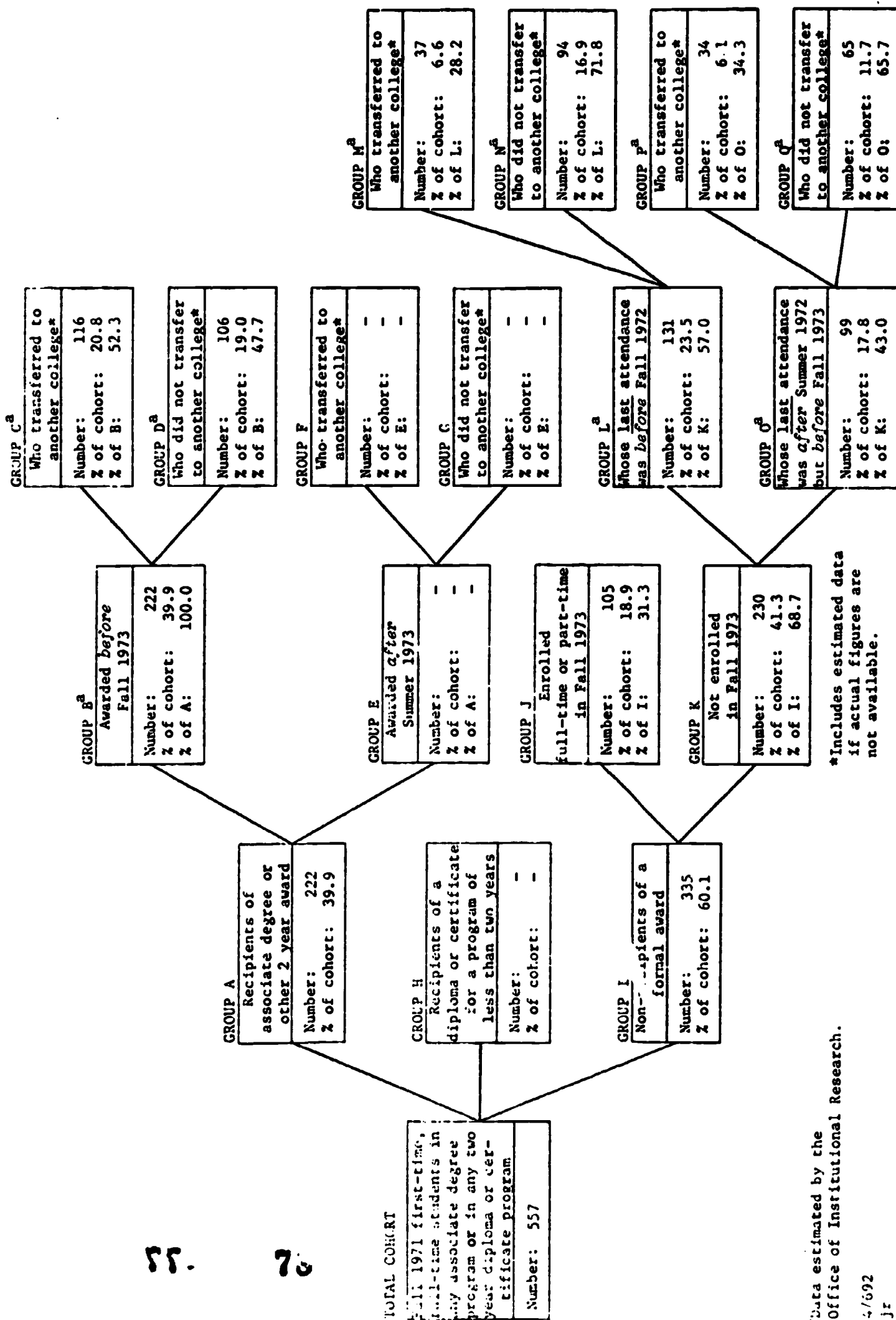
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



^aData estimated by the
Office of Institutional Research.

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cjr

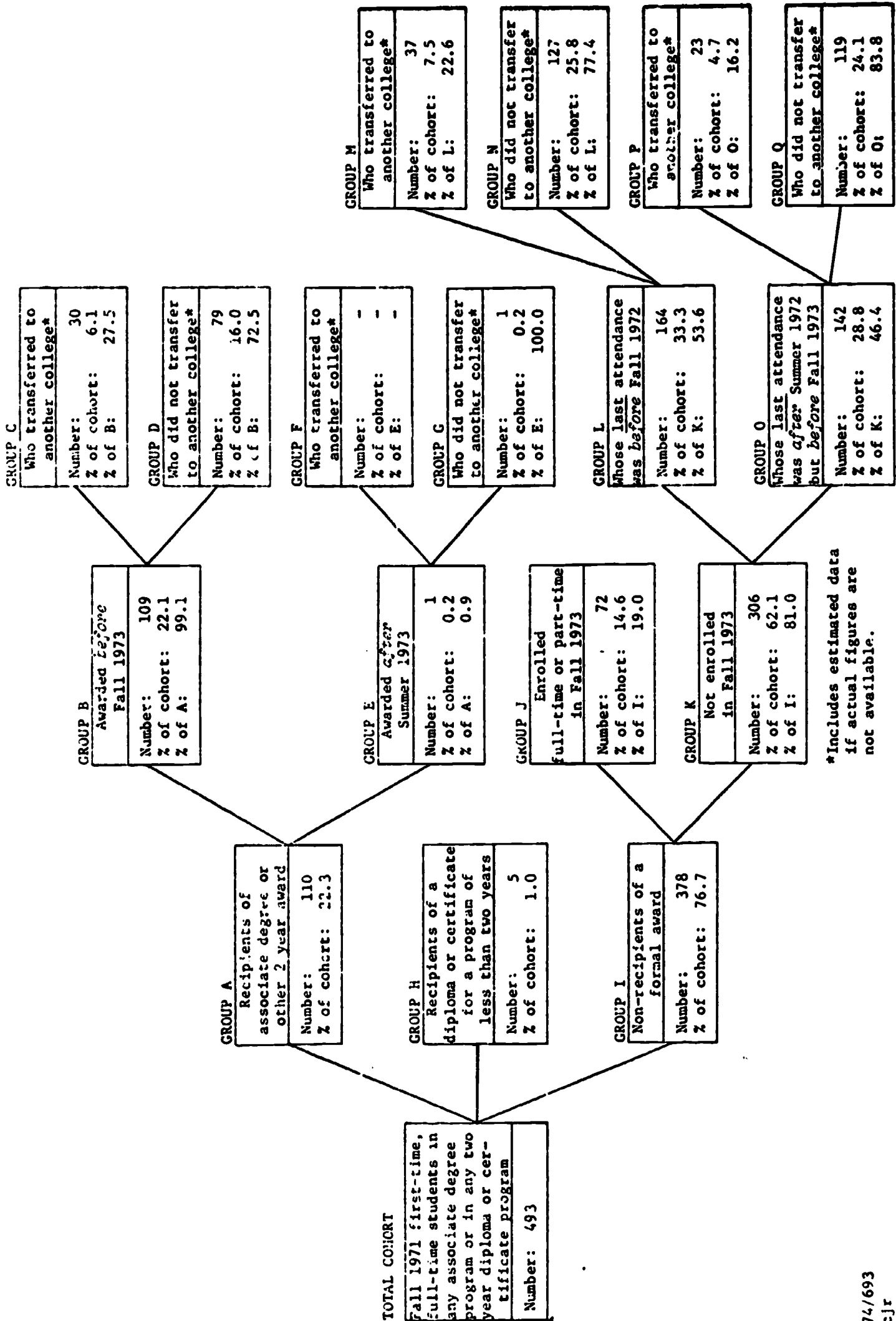
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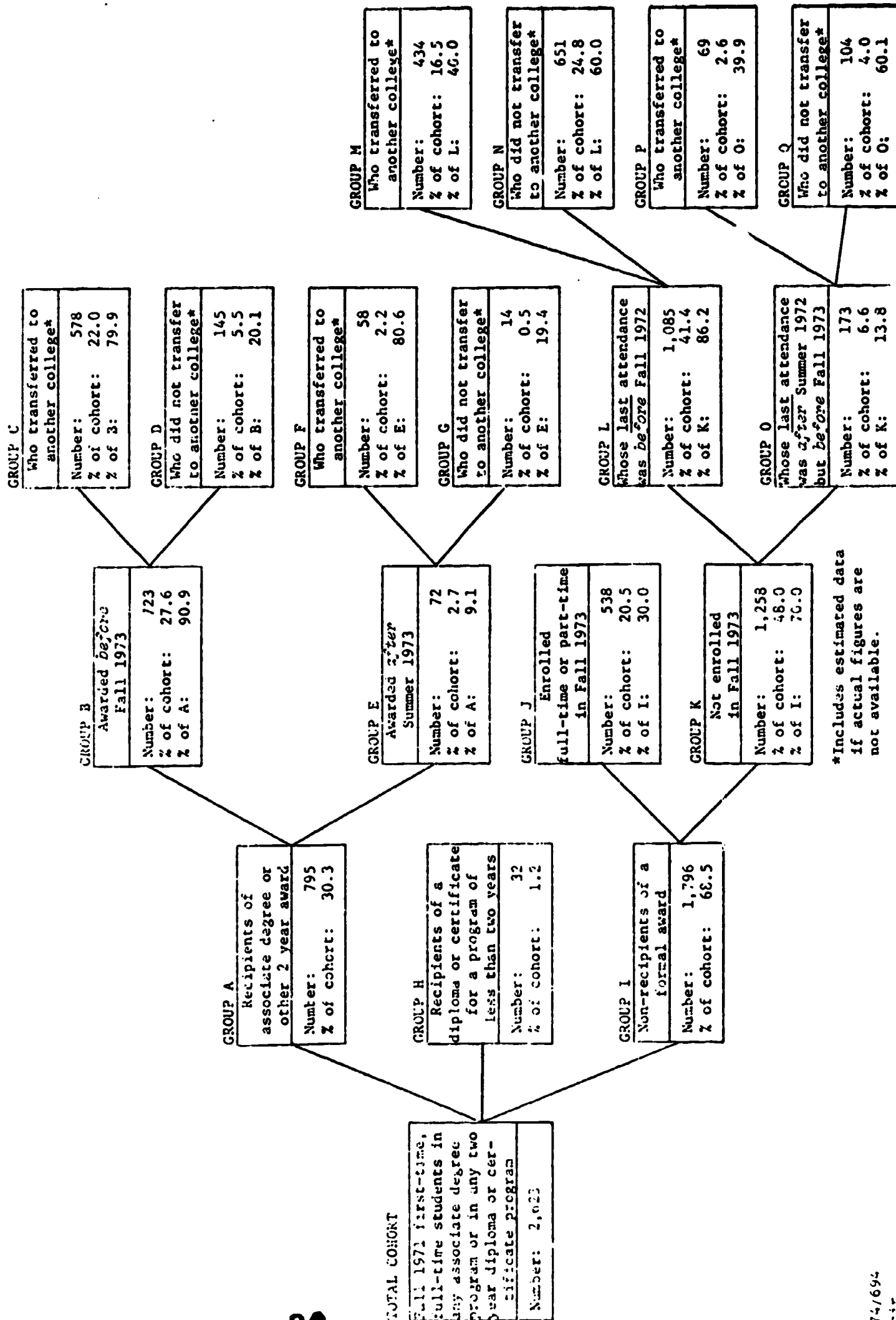
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cjr

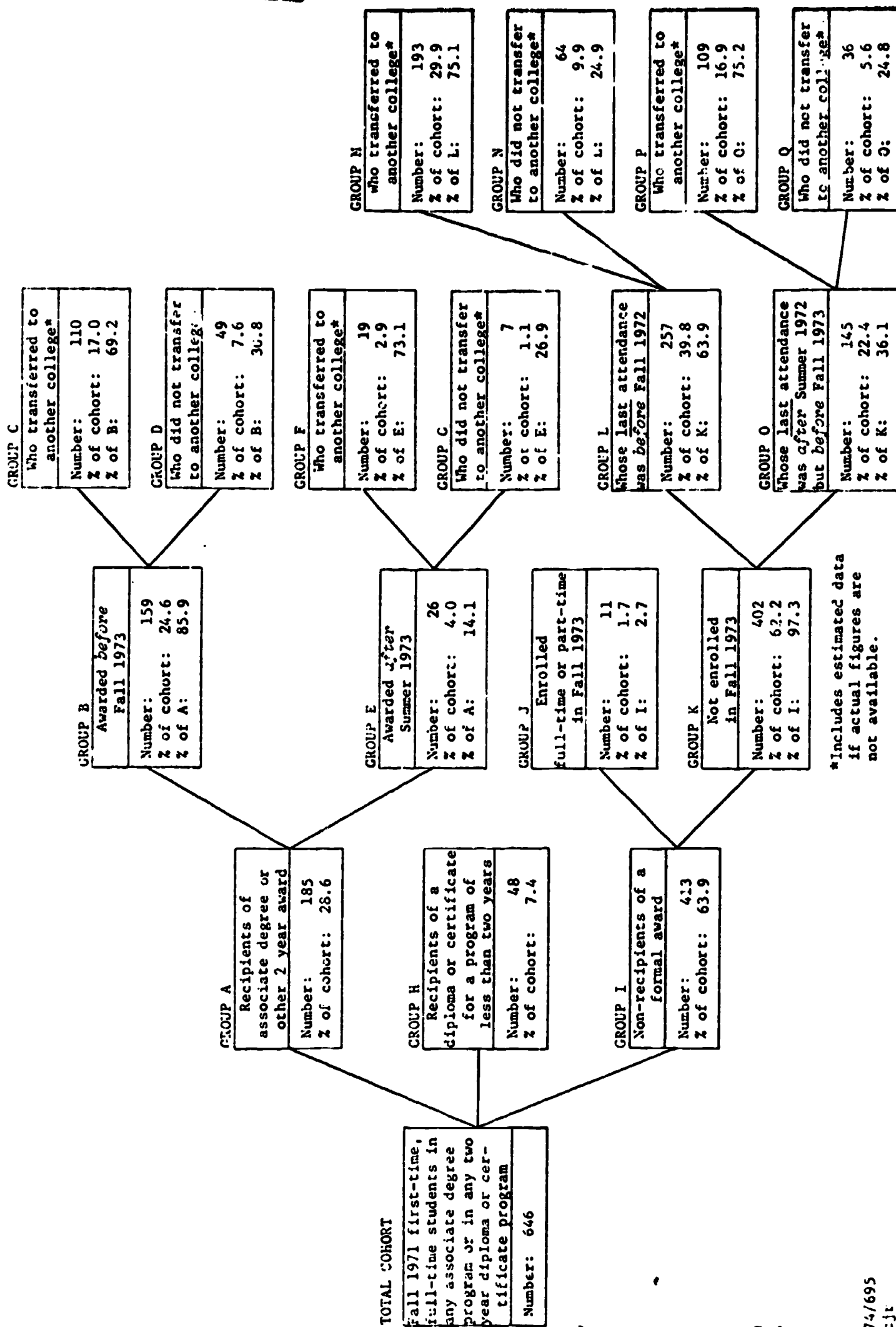
ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
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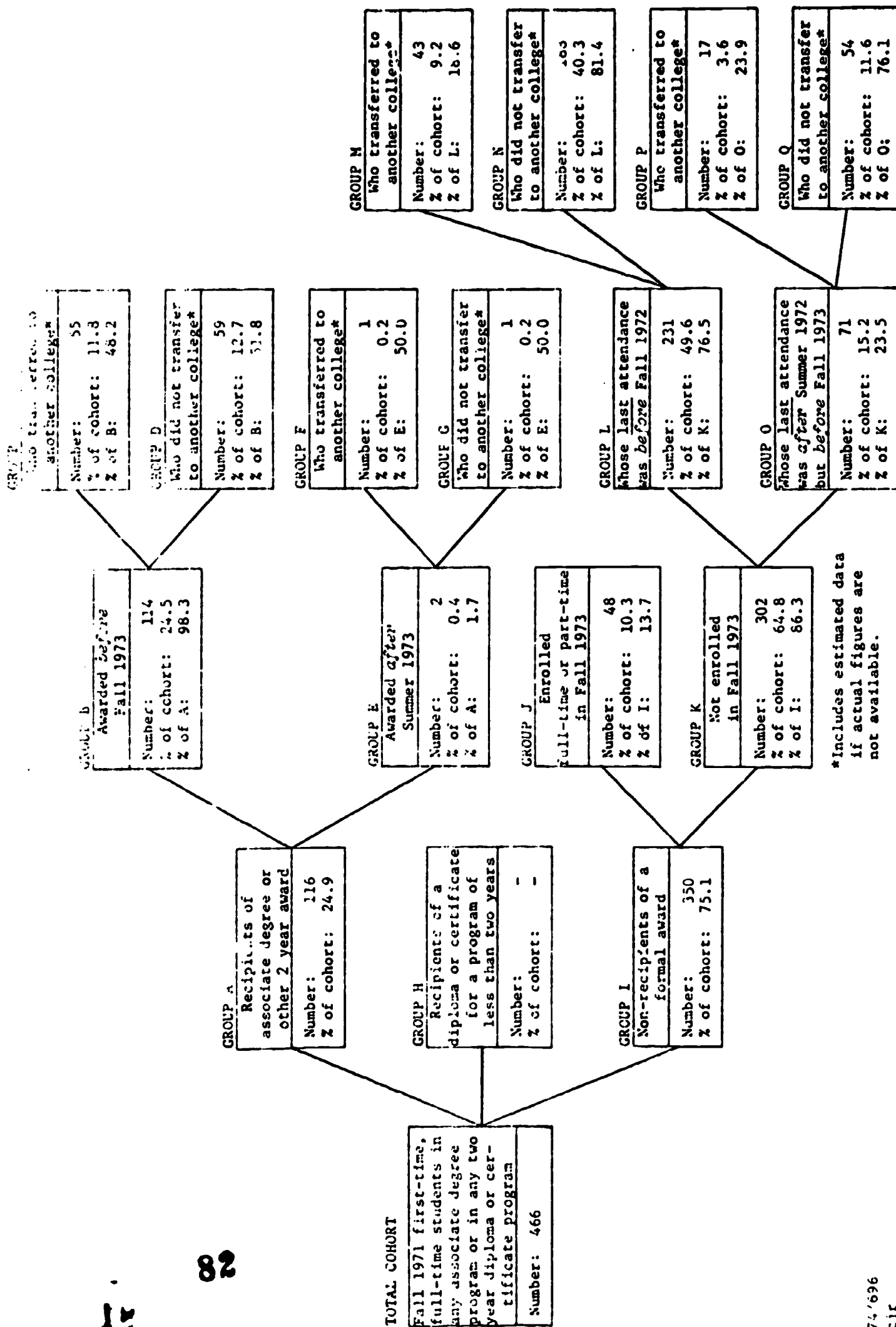
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ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

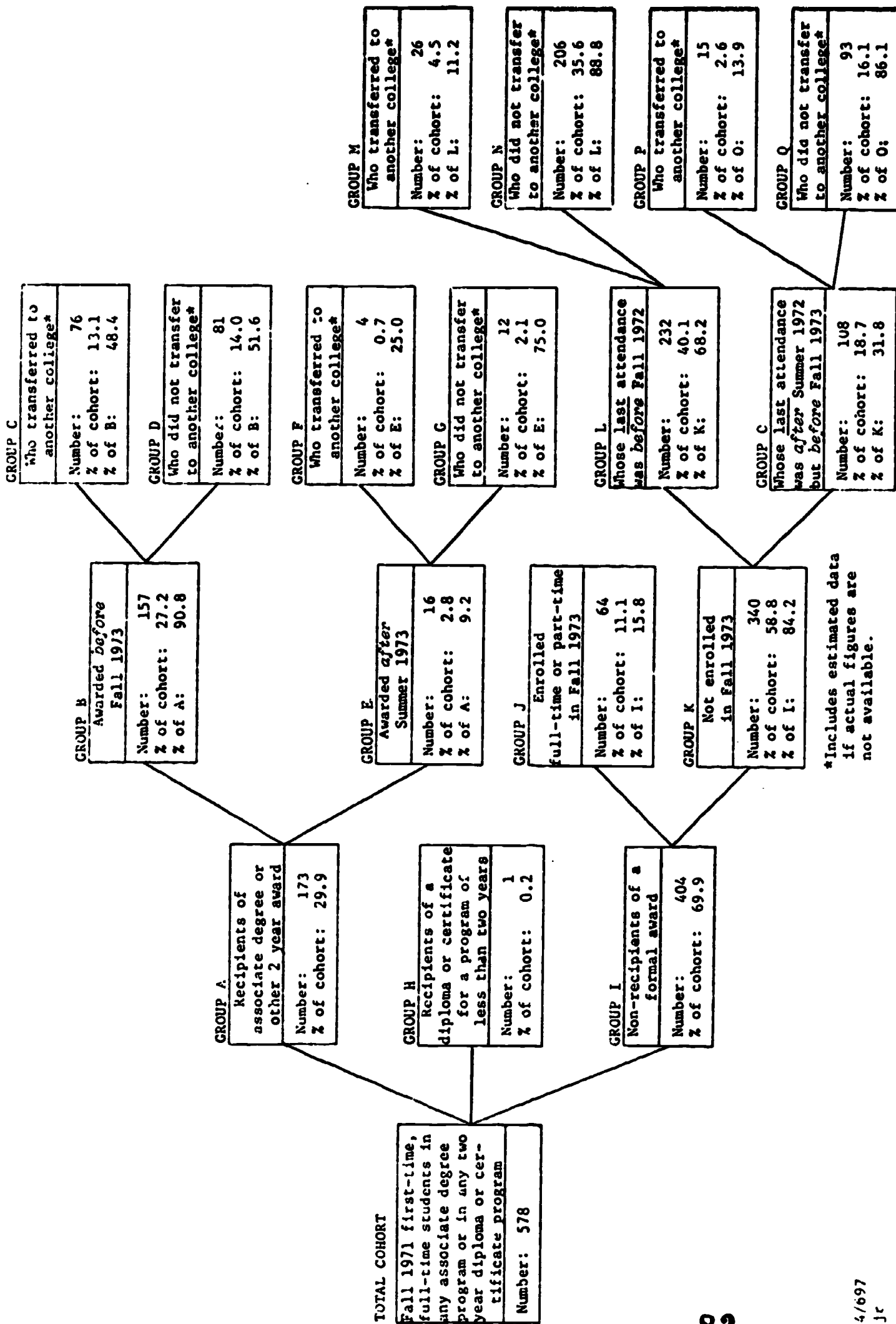


ATTENTION: RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
TOWSON-CORLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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ATTRITION/RETENTION IN TWO YEAR PROGRAMS AT
ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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<u>Report Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
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D-1	Preparation of Educational Personnel, 1966-1967 and 1967-1968. (Out of Print)
C-1	Enrollment by Academic Program, Fall 1968. (Out of Print)
-	Degree and Other Formal Programs Currently Offered, September 1969.
1	Enrollment, Housing and Financial Aids of Minority Group Students, Fall 1968. (Out of Print)
3	Campus School Statistics, 1966-1967-1968. (Out of Print)
5	Geographic Origins of Students, Fall 1968. (Out of Print)
6	Geographic Origins of First-time Students, Fall 1968.
7	1968-1969 Headcount Enrollment and Full-time Equivalent Workload Statistics of Credit Course Students.
8	Academic Library Statistics, 1967-1969. (Out of Print)
10	1969-1970 Headcount Enrollment and Full-time Equivalent Workload Statistics of Credit Course Students.
11	Trends in Enrollment and Degrees, 1948-1970.
12	Geographic Origins of Students, Fall 1969.
13	Geographic Origins of First-time Students, Fall 1969.
14	Summer Credit Course Students, 1968-1970. (Out of Print)
15	Application and Enrollment Patterns of Transfer Students, Fall 1970.
16	Campus School Statistics, 1966-1970.
17	Graduate Student Admissions Survey, Fall 1970. (Out of Print)
18	Academic Library Statistics 1969-1970.
19	Inventory of Selected Interinstitutional Cooperative Arrangements as of January 1971. (Out of Print)

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<u>Report Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
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21	Geographic Origins of Students, Fall 1970 (Out of Print)
22	Geographic Origins of First-time Students, Fall 1970 (Out of Print)
23	Employee Characteristics and Salary Statistics, Fall 1970 (Out of Print)
24	1970-1971 Headcount Enrollment and Full-time Equivalent Workload Statistics of Credit Course Students (Out of Print)
25	Characteristics of Institutions Under the Program of the State University of New York, Fall 1970
26	Degree and Other Formal Programs Currently Offered, Fall 1971
27	Migration of U.S. College Students with Emphasis on New York State, Fall 1968 (Out of Print)
28	Preparation of Educational Personnel 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71 with Trends from 1966-67 (Out of Print)
29	Application and Enrollment Patterns of Transfer Students, Fall 1971
31	Tuition Waivers Honored by State-operated Institutions of the State University of New York, 1970-71 and 1971-72 (Out of Print)
32	Graduate Student Admissions Survey, 1971
33	Enrollment by Academic Program, Fall 1968 Through Fall 1971 (Out of Print)
34	Minority Group Enrollment, Housing and Financial Aid Statistics, Fall 1969 Through Fall 1971
35	Geographic Origins of First-time Students, Fall 1971 (Out of Print)
36	Geographic Origins of Students, Fall 1971
37	Trends in Enrollment and Degrees Granted, 1948-1972 (Out of Print)
38	Graduate Admissions Survey, 1972

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(Continued)

<u>Report Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
39	Geographic Origins of First-time Students, Fall 1972
41	Application and Enrollment Patterns of Transfer Students, Fall 1972
42	Geographic Origins of Students, Fall 1972
1-74	Graduate Student Admissions Survey, 1973
4-74	Attrition and Retention of First-time, Full-time Students in Two Year and Baccalaureate Degree Programs, Class of 1973

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